

Broadway ROMANCES

A QUALITY
ROMANCE
PUBLICATION

10¢

LOOK
BEHIND
THE
GLITTERING
CURTAIN
OF
GLAMOUR
THAT
CONCEALS
THE
INTIMATE
PASSIONS
OF THE
GREAT
WHITE
WAY!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM



QUALITY ROMANCE PUBLICATIONS BRING YOU A THRILL-PACKED HIT!



**LOVE STORIES FILLED WITH
UNFORGETTABLE PATHOS,
DRAMA AND HUMAN
INTEREST!**

**A SUPERB NEW
MAGAZINE!
YOUR BEST BUY!**

**THRILL TO SUCH
STORIES AS**

LOVE BLUES

THIS WAS MY SHAME

GOSSIP STOLE MY LOVE

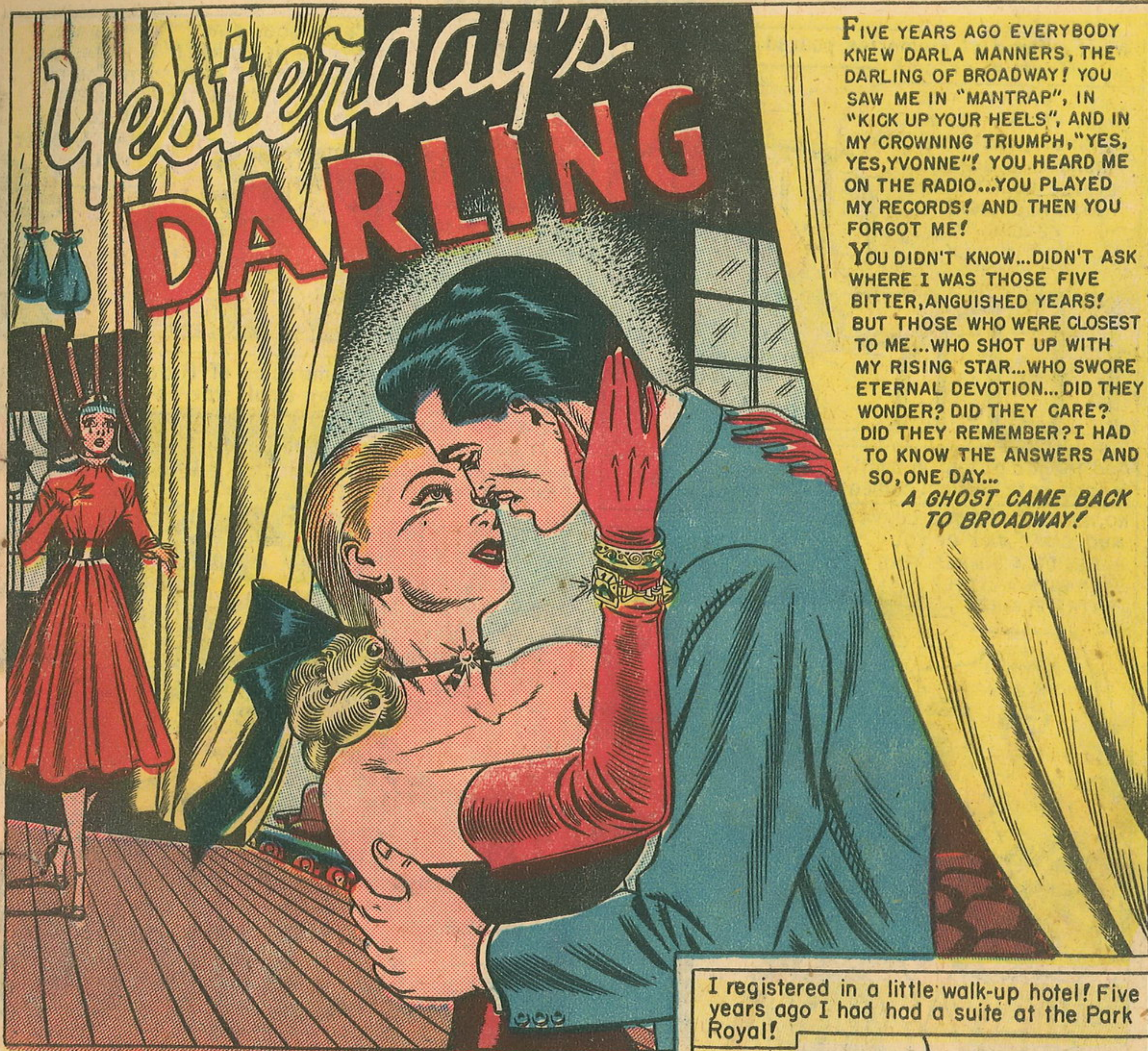
NEVER BELONG TO ANY MAN

**They're all top-notch love stories and they're all in the February issue of
LOVE SCANDALS!**

Remember a QUALITY seal is your guide for GRAND ENTERTAINMENT!



ON SALE EVERYWHERE



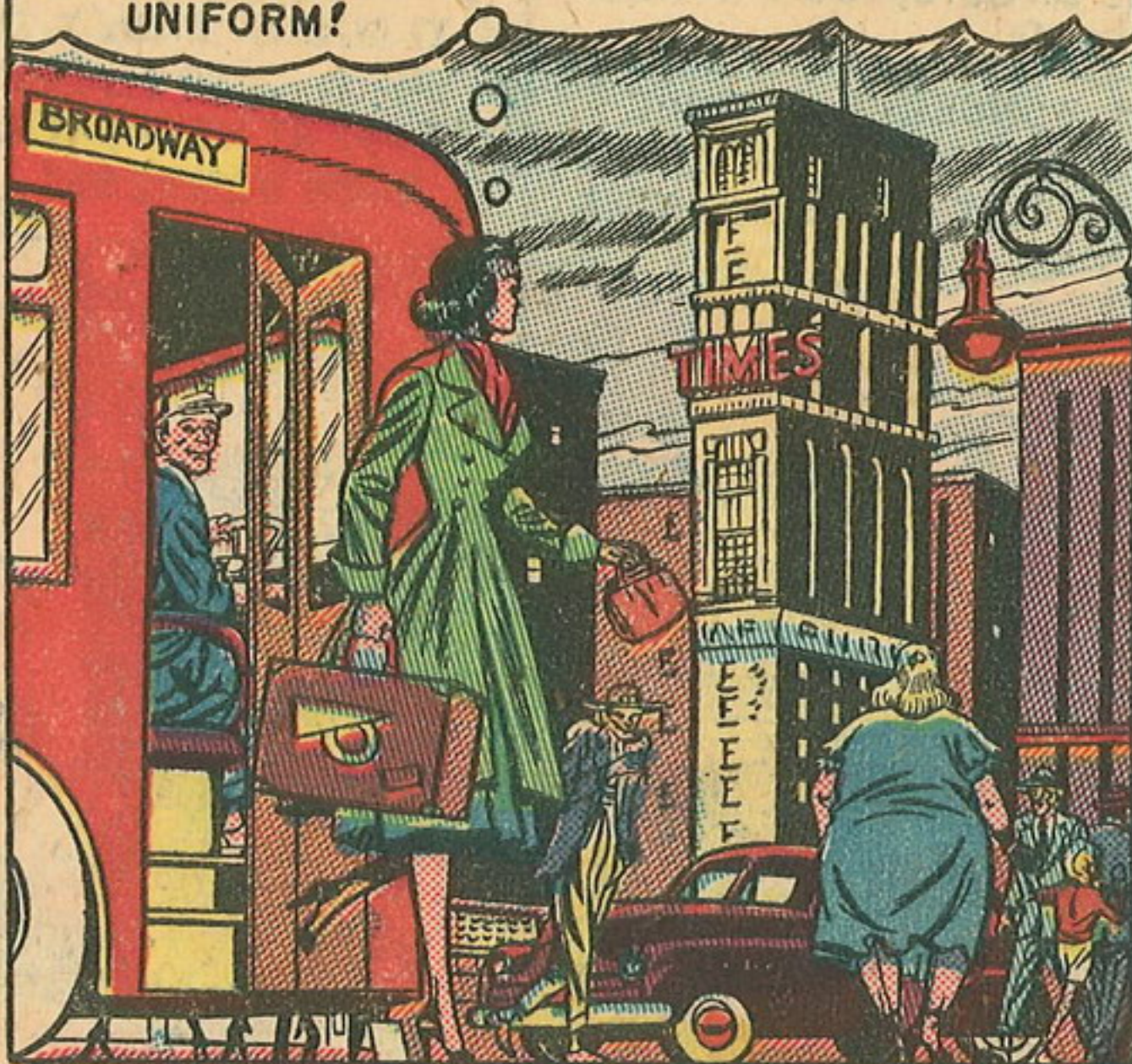
FIVE YEARS AGO EVERYBODY KNEW DARLA MANNERS, THE DARLING OF BROADWAY! YOU SAW ME IN "MANTRAP", IN "KICK UP YOUR HEELS", AND IN MY CROWNING TRIUMPH, "YES, YES, YVONNE"! YOU HEARD ME ON THE RADIO...YOU PLAYED MY RECORDS! AND THEN YOU FORGOT ME!

YOU DIDN'T KNOW...DIDN'T ASK WHERE I WAS THOSE FIVE BITTER, ANGUISHED YEARS! BUT THOSE WHO WERE CLOSEST TO ME...WHO SHOT UP WITH MY RISING STAR...WHO SWORE ETERNAL DEVOTION...DID THEY WONDER? DID THEY CARE? DID THEY REMEMBER? I HAD TO KNOW THE ANSWERS AND SO, ONE DAY...

A GHOST CAME BACK TO BROADWAY!

It was an afternoon in early fall when I saw Times Square again...

TIMES SQUARE! IT HASN'T CHANGED MUCH IN FIVE YEARS! SOME NEW SIGNS, NEW STORE-FRONTS, NOT SO MANY MEN AND GIRLS IN UNIFORM!



I registered in a little walk-up hotel! Five years ago I had had a suite at the Park Royal!

WHAT BECAME OF MAX FEINSTER WHO RAN THIS PLACE YEARS AGO?

LITTLE FAT GUY WITH GLASSES? OH, HE DIED THREE-FOUR YEARS BACK! THAT'LL BE TWO-FIFTY, LADY... **IN ADVANCE!**



What a flood of memories poured in when I let myself into the room!

WHY...WHY, IT'S THE VERY ROOM I HAD WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE FROM INDIANA... A SCARED LITTLE COUNTRY GIRL WITH FOOTLIGHT FEVER!



And the job at last, in a little second-rate musical comedy...

NO, NO, NO! FOR THE LUVVA MUD, CAN'T ANY OF YOU BABES DO A SIMPLE TIME STEP WITH A LITTLE EXTRA FLAIR?

I...I CAN!



And when no job came, and my money ran out, there was incredible, heart-wrenching kindness to remember!

YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, HONEY! NO NONSENSE! YOU STAY A WHILE ANYHOW! PAY ME WHEN YOU LAND SOMETHING

OH, MR. FEINSTER, YOU'RE THE KINDEST, SWEETEST MAN...! THANK YOU!



...that by one of those miracles of Broadway became a smash hit and sent my small star rising!

LISTEN TO THEM CHEER! THAT MAKES THE HOURS AND HOURS OF ACHING PRACTISE WORTH WHILE!

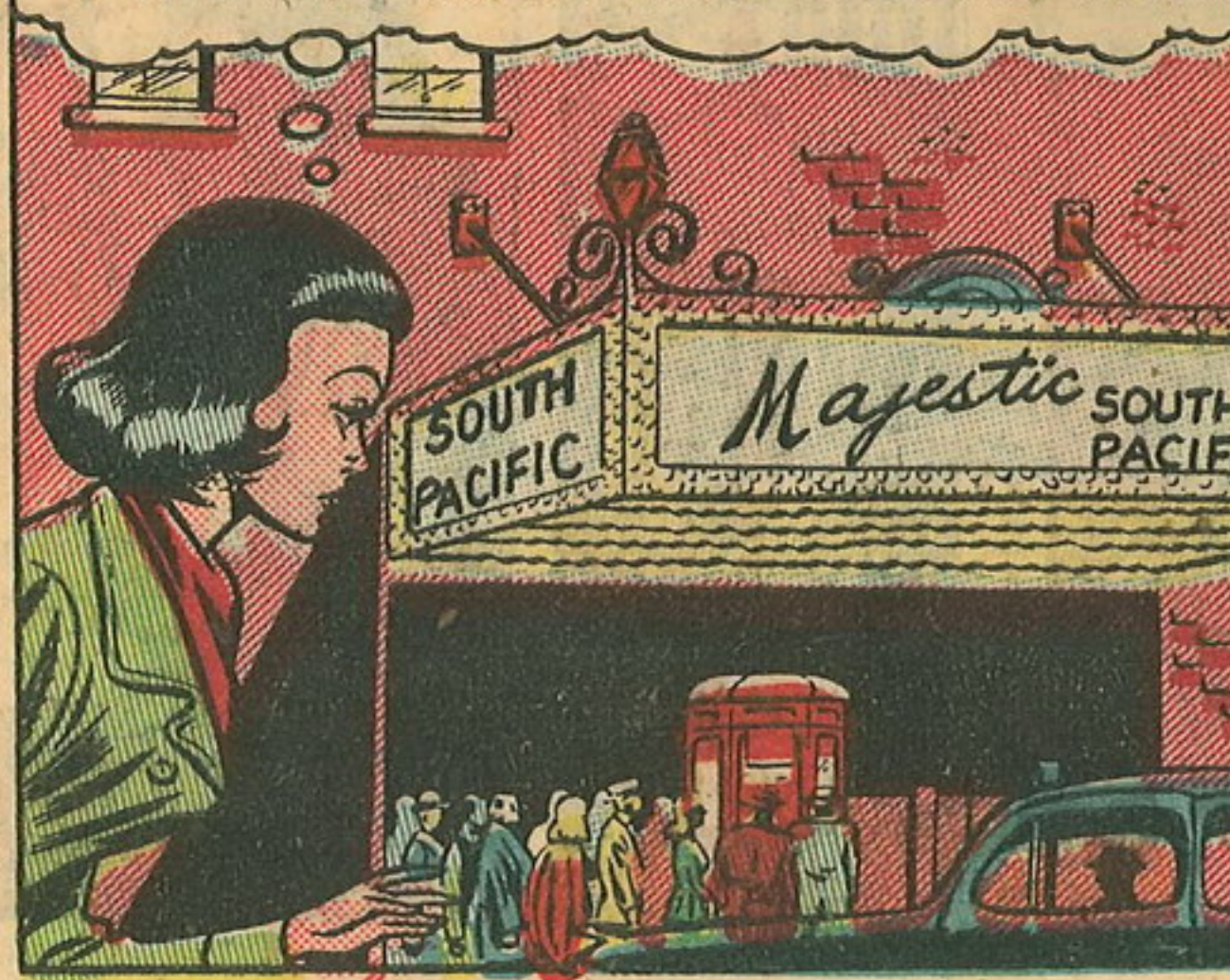


NO, NO! I CAN'T STAND THE MEMORIES! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK TO BROADWAY AT ALL! THAT'S ALL OVER FOR ME!



I hurried out into the crowds...but where, in all those echoing side streets, could I find refuge from memories?

THE MAJESTIC! ULP! I WONDER IF THEY'LL STAY THERE AS LONG AS I DID IN "BALLYHOO GIRL"? THAT WAS MY FIRST STARRING ROLE...



LINDY'S! WE USED TO HAVE BREAKFAST THERE AT NOON! WASN'T THAT SILLY... SOB... BREAKFAST AT NOON? THAT'S SHOW BUSINESS!



BROADWAY ROMANCES

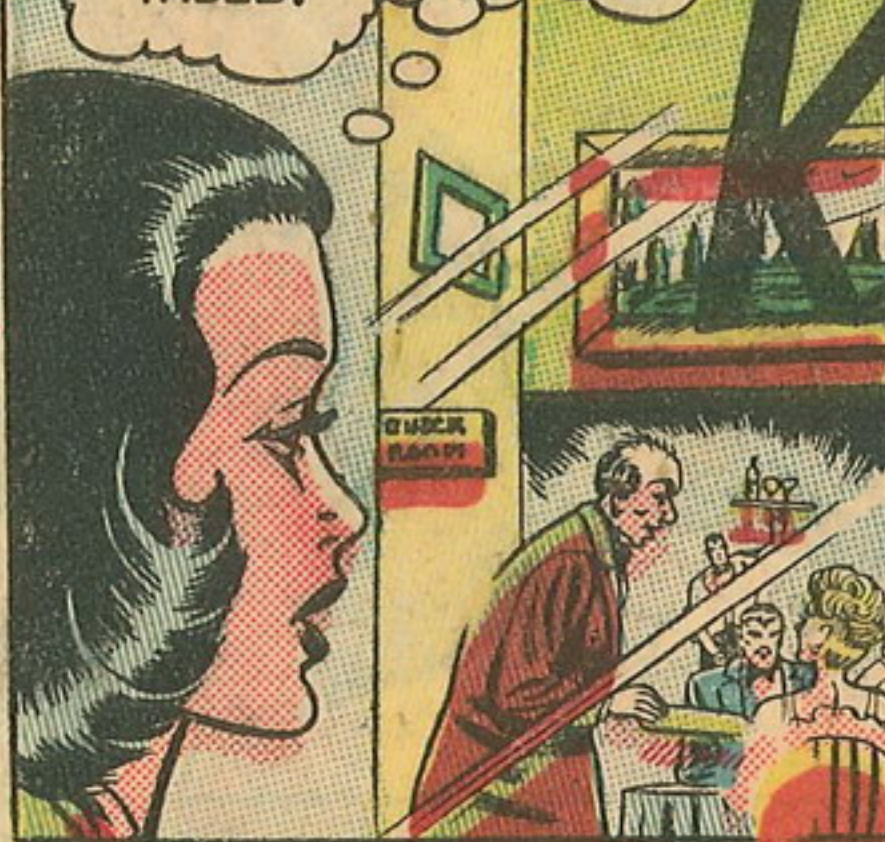
I didn't want to walk that next block...to see the queer little name that would wrench my heart! But something drove me on!

KRIK...A FUNNY FAT MAN WITH A FLAIR FOR FOOD AND A NOSE FOR CELEBRITIES! I WONDER WHOM HE'S TOASTING TONIGHT?



Nobody could pronounce Krik's full name...but every columnist and celebrity on Broadway made it a regular haunt!

TH-THERE'S WINGHELL...AND THE REPORTER FOR *VARIETY*! AND JACK HEFLIN, THE PRODUCER, IS AT HIS USUAL PRIVATE TABLE!



Harold whispered his own toast...Harold Bancroft, my leading man...my star of secret dreams and spoken promise!

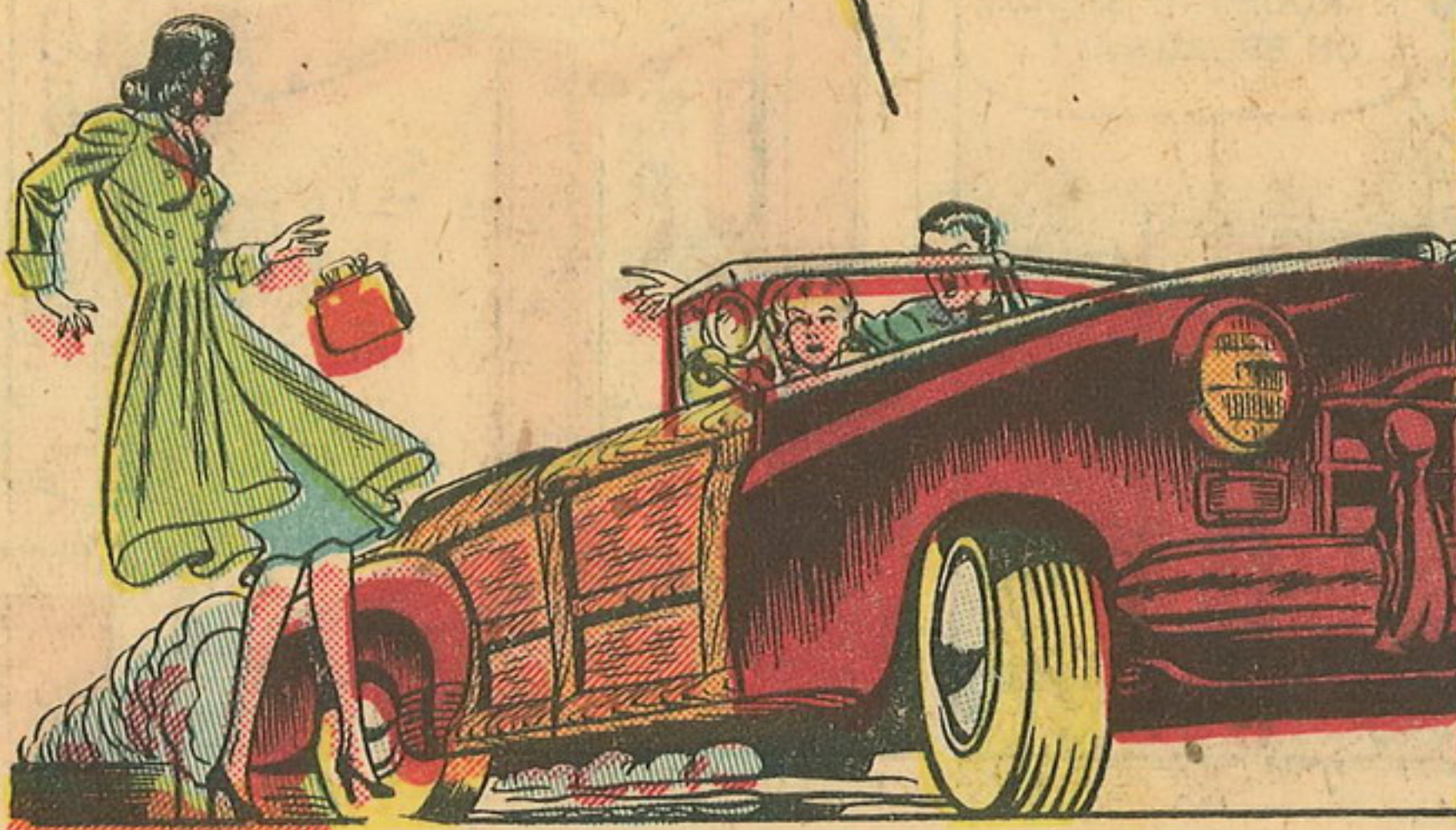
TO THE QUEEN OF BROADWAY... AND EMPRESS OF MY HEART!

THANK YOU, HAROLD! THAT MAKES MY BIRTHDAY PERFECT!



WATCH IT, SISTER! STREETS ARE FOR CARS, YOU KNOW!

OH...!



Five years ago, almost to the night, they gave me a birthday party at Krik's! *LIFE* sent a photographer! It was *News*!

SILENCES, PLEASE! DO YOU HEAR ME? QUIETS! A TOASTS TO OUR DARLA, EVERYBODY!



BUT, SWEETHEART, MADLY AS I LOVE YOU, I CAN'T BE LATE! PEOPLE PAY THEIR MONEY TO SEE ME IN THAT SHOW!

ULP! HAROLD...WITH THAT GIRL FROM "HEARTS EAST"! *VARIETY* SAID HE WAS A HIT IN "GOLDEN BANNERS"! I'M GLAD FOR HIM!



HE DIDN'T KNOW ME! HE LOOKED RIGHT AT ME AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME! AND I BELIEVED ALL HIS ARDENT PROMISES ONCE!



BROADWAY ROMANCES

I hadn't wanted to come back to Broadway...didn't want to do what I did...but something stronger than my will was driving me!

I'LL GO INTO KRIK'S! JUST BEING RECOGNIZED AND REMEMBERED WILL EASE SOME OF THE PAIN, I KNOW! MAYBE I'LL MEET OLD FRIENDS...



I walked inside...and Krik came bustling forward as he did to meet all patrons...

AREN'T YOU IN WRONG PLACES, LADY? CAFETERIAS IS DOWN STREET! OR HAMBURGER SHOPS, MAYBE! THIS VERY EXPENSIVE PLACES!

Y-YES! YES, THANK YOU! I AM IN THE WRONG PLACE!



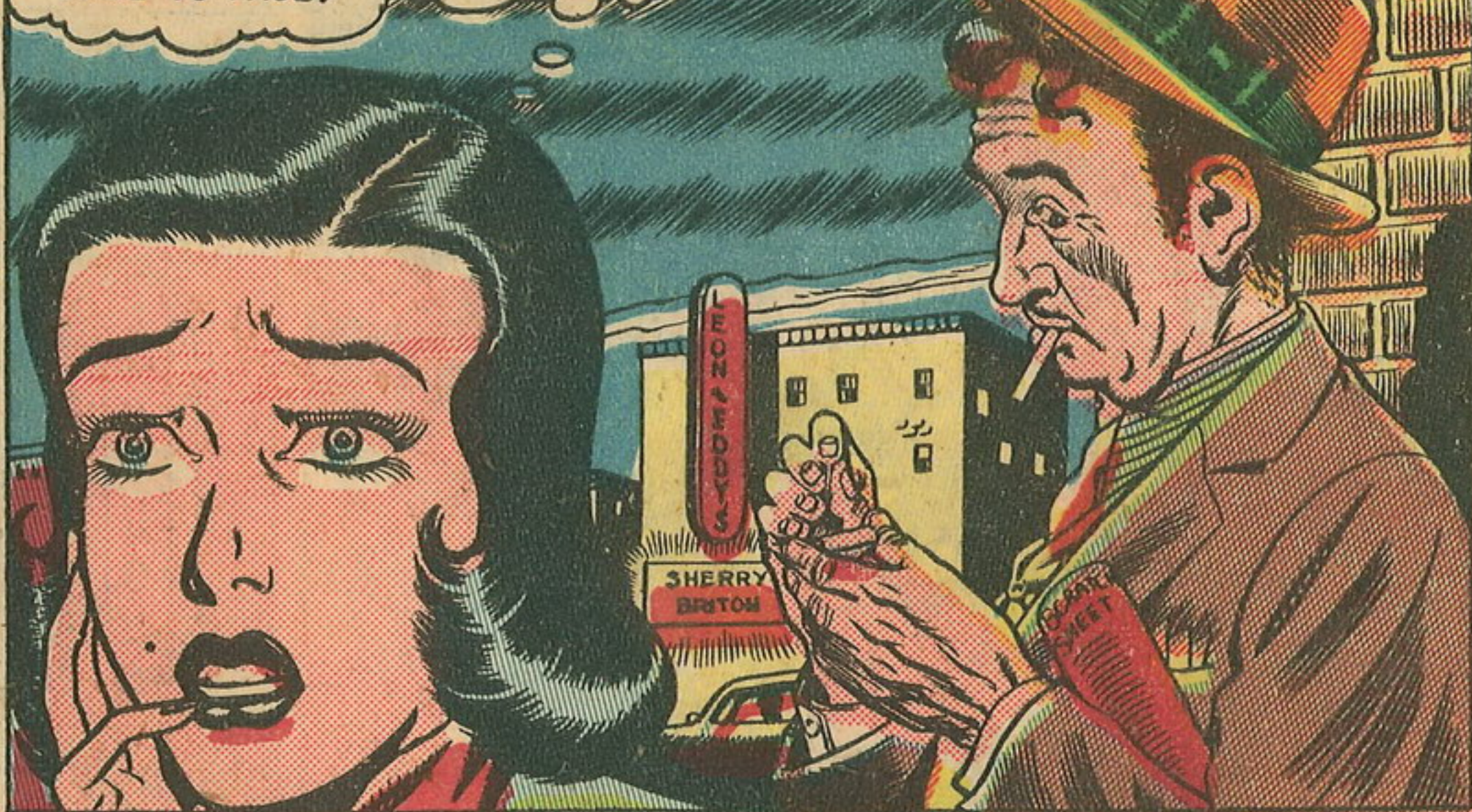
Krik didn't even know me! I turned blindly to rush out and bumped into a man just entering...

WATCH IT, GIRLIE! THOSE ARE FORTY-DOLLAR SHOES YOU'RE MASHING!

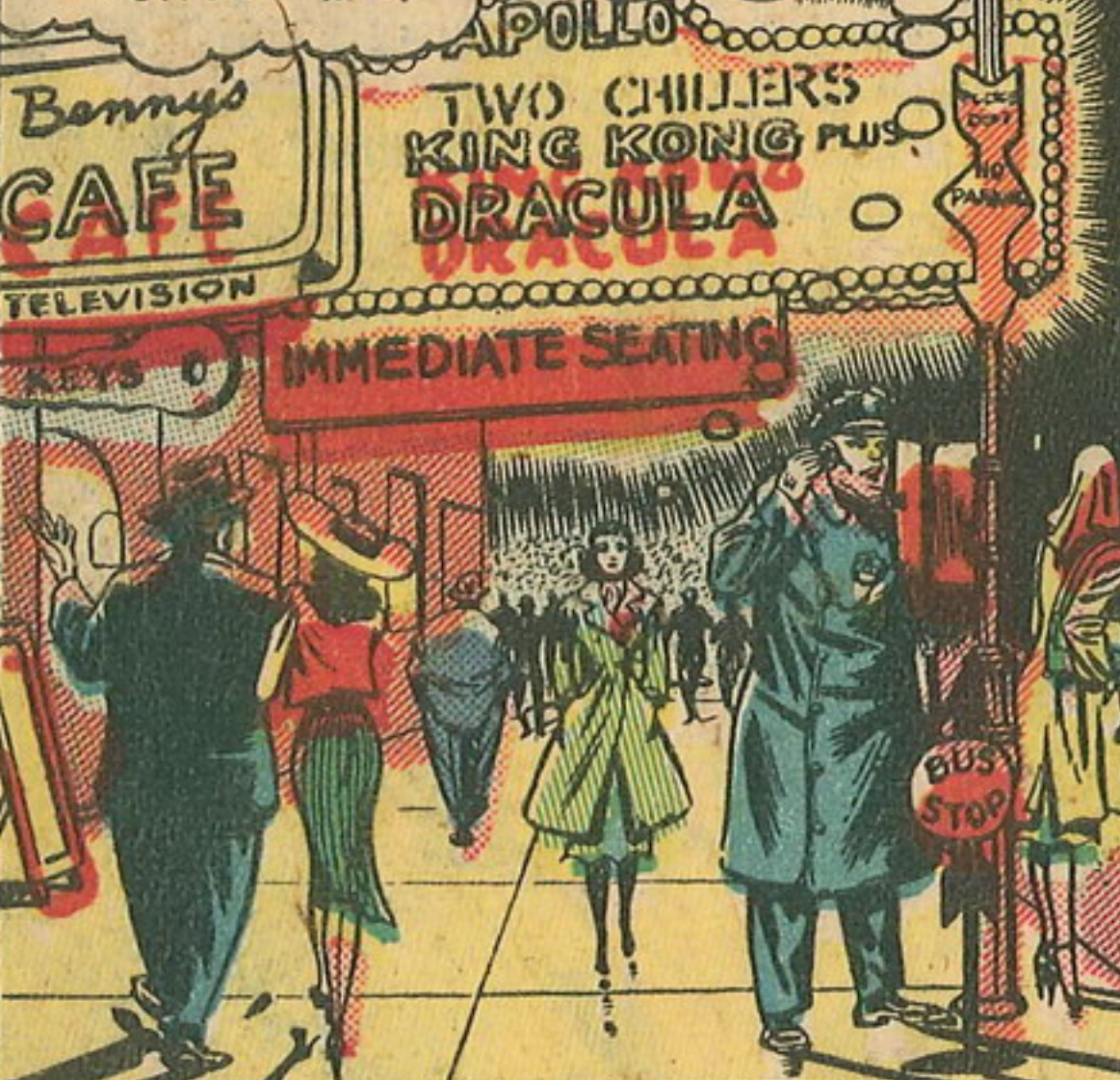
OOP! I'M SORRY...



THAT WAS SAM BURNS GOING INTO KRIK'S-- MY OWN AGENT! I WONDER HOW RICH HE GOT OFF TEN PERCENT OF MY EARNINGS? AND NOW HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME FACE TO FACE!

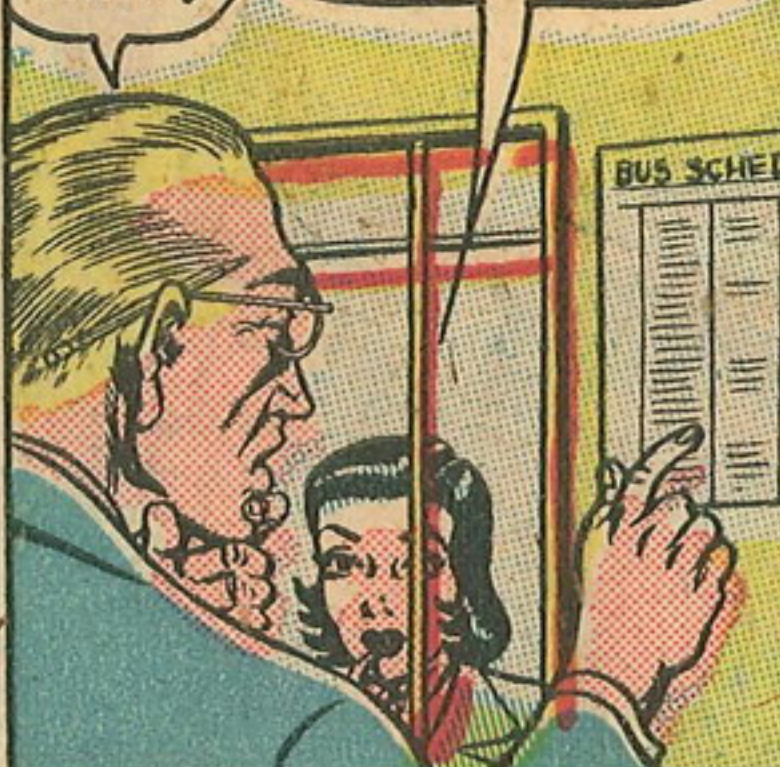


COMING BACK WAS ALL A GHASTLY MISTAKE! I'LL TAKE THE NEXT BUS OUT AND TRY TO FORGET BROADWAY AS BROADWAY FORGOT ME!



KINTER, VIRGINIA? THERE'S A BUS OUT AT ONE IN THE MORNING, MISS! NOTHING BEFORE THAT!

ONE IN THE MORNING? BUT... BUT WHAT WILL I DO ALL THAT TIME? IT'S ONLY DINNER TIME NOW! THAT'S HOURS TO SPEND... ON BROADWAY!



Blindly I stumbled into the first haven that offered! I was through the door before the shock of memory hit me!

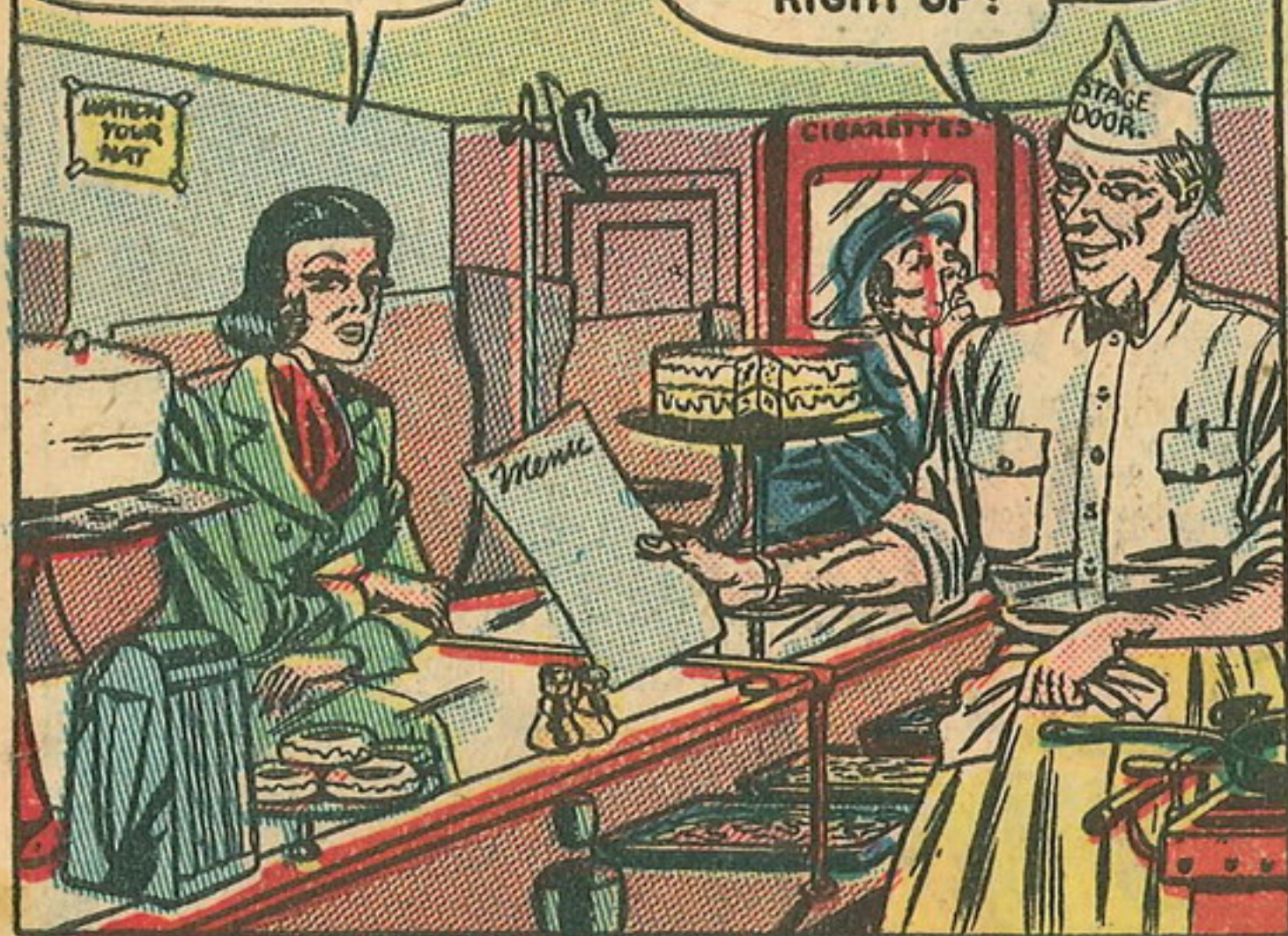
OH, NO! NOT THIS PLACE! DEAR HEAVEN, I DIDN'T WANT TO REMEMBER THIS...!



There were no familiar faces now! I made myself go to the counter...

COFFEE AND DOUGH-NUTS, PLEASE!

SCUTTLE OF MUD AND TWO SINKERS, COMING RIGHT UP!



The Stage Door was a showgirls' headquarters! It was handy, food was cheap and good, and Jimmy Sheldon had tips on jobs!

HERE YOU ARE...AND A TIP, HONEY! KEEP AN EYE ON SHUBERT ALLEY! MICHAEL TODD MAY BE CASTING FOR A NEW SHOW NEXT WEEK!

YOU'RE A PRINCE, JIMMY! BUT YOU'RE SLIPPING! I ONLY ORDERED COFFEE!



Jimmy knew when a girl was broke...

EAT THAT SINKER AND NO ARGUMENTS! IT'S ON THE HOUSE! WE'RE CELEBRATING THE DISHWASHER'S BIRTHDAY!

YOU'RE THE SWEETEST, NICEST GUY WHO EVER LIVED, YOU BIG LUG!



AW, IT'S JUST GOOD BUSINESS TO KEEP CUSTOMERS EATING! WHEN YOU'RE A STAR, YOU CAN GIVE ME A PASS TO YOUR SHOW, HONEY!

I WILL, JIMMY...AND I'LL BE A STAR! I WON'T QUIT UNTIL I AM!



YOU *WILL* BE! YOU'VE GOT THAT SOMETHING, WHATEVER IT IS, THAT'LL PUT YOU AT THE TOP! MAYBE IT'S CONFIDENCE...SOMETHING INSIDE YOU THAT *KNOWS* YOU'RE GOOD...



The only date I ever had with Jimmy I had to ask for! It was the day I landed my first chorus job!

JIMMY SHELDON, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO GET OFF WORK! WHAT MUST I DO TO GET YOU TO WALK HOME WITH ME?

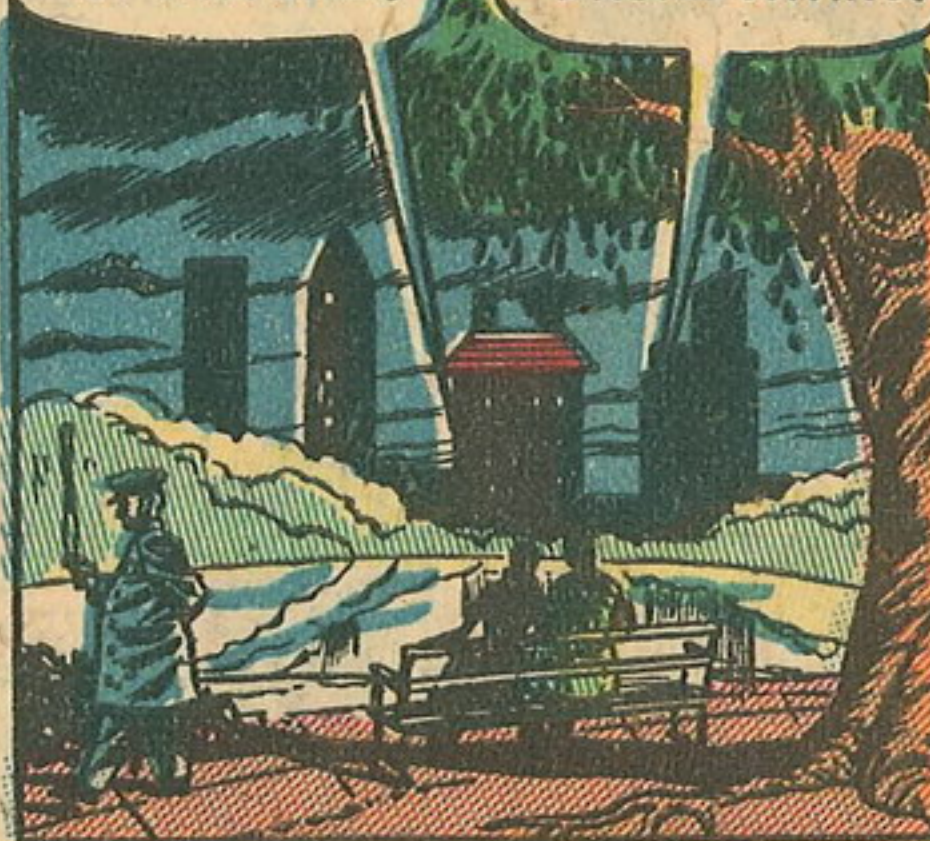
GOSH, DARLA, DO YOU MEAN IT? I'D...I'D RATHER WALK HOME WITH YOU THAN OWN MANHATTAN!



We strolled up Fifth Avenue to Central Park...

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE A STRANGE PERSON, JIMMY! YOU'RE SO SWELL AND UNDERSTANDING TO ALL THE KIDS...AND YOU NEVER ASK FAVORS OF ANYONE!

I'VE ALL GONE THROUGH, HONEY! YOU SEE, I CAME HERE TO CRACK INTO SHOW BUSINESS, TOO, AND WENT BROKE TRYING!



I'D WRITTEN SOME PLAYS AND I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOOD! NOBODY ELSE DID! SO I ENDED SLINGING HASH AT THE STAGE DOOR!

BUT YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN UP, HAVE YOU? YOUR DREAMS ARE JUST AS BRIGHT AND SHINY AS EVER, AREN'T THEY?



BROADWAY ROMANCES



OH, I'M WRITING A NEW PLAY NOW AND IT'S BETTER! YOU... YOU SEE, DARLA, I'M WRITING IT FOR YOU! I VISUALIZE YOU AS THE STAR!

THAT'S THE NICEST COMPLIMENT I EVER HAD! WE'LL BOTH REACH THE TOP, JIMMY! SOME DAY I'LL STAR IN YOUR PLAY!



DARLA, DARLA... THE DAY YOU FIRST WALKED IN, MY HEART WENT ALL CRAZY AND IT'S NEVER BEEN THE SAME SINCE!

IT WASN'T QUITE THE SAME WITH ME, DARLING! AT FIRST YOU WERE JUST AN AWFULLY NICE GUY... BUT YOU MOVED IN ON ME AND TOOK OVER!



I'M SCARED, HONEY! YOU'LL HIT THE TOP BECAUSE NOTHING CAN STOP YOU... AND THERE'S NO ROOM UP THERE FOR A HASHER!

YOU SILLY LUG! IF I WERE QUEEN OF THE EARTH, MY FIRST COMMAND WOULD BE TO PUT ANOTHER THRONE RIGHT NEXT TO MINE!



Between rehearsals and dance lessons, I had no time for dates! But I managed to run to the Stage Door once a day...

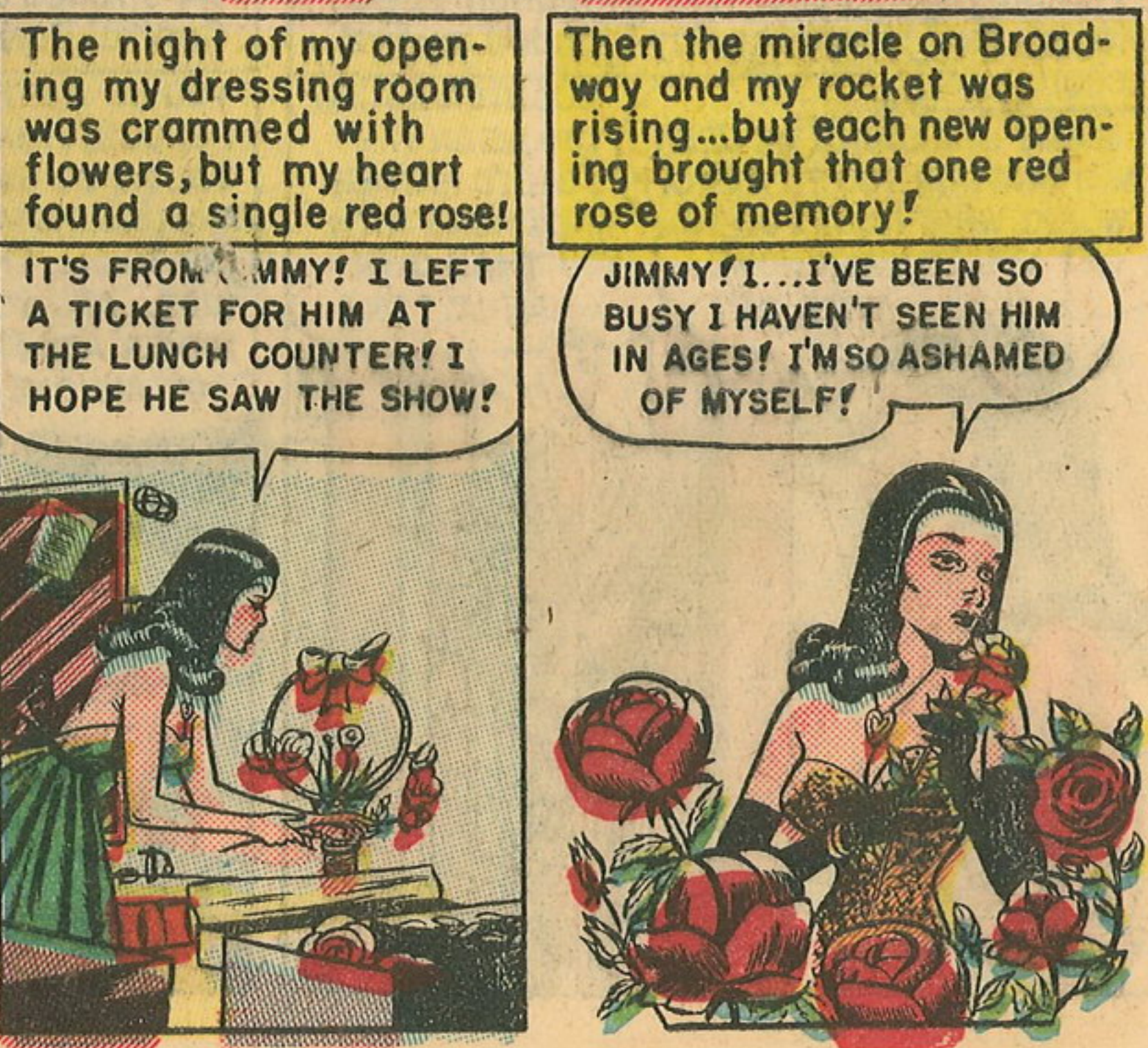
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DARLA! I HEAR YOUR SHOW'S OPENING NEXT MONTH!

OH, THANK YOU, DARLING! YES, WE OPEN AT THE BELKNAP IN THREE WEEKS! I'M SO EXCITED I CAN HARDLY BREATHE!



OH, JIMMY... IT'S BEAUTIFUL! I'LL WEAR IT ALWAYS!

AW, IT ISN'T AT ALL WHAT I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU, DARLA! YOU KNOW THAT! MAYBE SOME DAY...!



The night of my opening my dressing room was crammed with flowers, but my heart found a single red rose!

IT'S FROM JIMMY! I LEFT A TICKET FOR HIM AT THE LUNCH COUNTER! I HOPE HE SAW THE SHOW!

Then the miracle on Broadway and my rocket was rising... but each new opening brought that one red rose of memory!

JIMMY! I... I'VE BEEN SO BUSY I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN AGES! I'M SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF!

BROADWAY ROMANCES

And there was Harold Bancroft, my leading man, who was always near by with little attentions, gifts, compliments!

YOU LOOK SIMPLY RAVISHING, DARLING! I'VE HAD SHERM BILLINGSLEY RESERVE A TABLE AT THE STORK FOR US!

I'D PLANNED TO HUNT UP AN OLD FRIEND TONIGHT, HAROLD... BUT IF YOU'VE ALREADY MADE THE RESERVATION, I'LL POSTPONE IT!

I didn't realize how much we were together, or how fickle Time was slipping past, until I heard Walter Winchell's broadcast one night...



SPECIAL TO NEW YORK NEWS-PAPERS! WATCH THE MARRIAGE LICENSE LISTS! IT MAY BE WEDDING BELLS FOR LOVELY DARLA MANNERS OF BROADWAY AND HER LEADING MAN!

ON THE AIR

HAROLD, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

I KNOW IT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA, SWEETHEART! IF EVERYBODY KNOWS IT BUT US, MAYBE IT'S TIME WE GOT WISE TO REALITIES!

YOU MUST KNOW BY NOW THAT I'M MAD ABOUT YOU, SWEET! AND THINK OF THE PUBLICITY... TOGETHER ON THE STAGE AND OFF!

I... I'M NOT SURE, HAROLD! PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE! I... I WANT TO DO SOME THINKING!

The moment Harold left, I rushed out...

JIMMY? I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO HIM! IN THE MIDDLE OF WINCHELL'S BROADCAST, HE RIPPED OFF HIS APRON AND QUIT! WALKED RIGHT OUT?

OH...! I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!

Jimmy vanished that night and I couldn't find him! I was opening in my greatest triumph and every moment of my time was taken!

ARE YOU POSITIVE THERE WERE NO PHONE CALLS, HAROLD?

GREAT HEAVENS, DARLA... WITH BROADWAY AT YOUR FEET, STOP FUSSING ABOUT A BROKEN-DOWN HASH-SLINGER! AND SMILE! PEOPLE ARE LOOKING!

YES YES YVONNE STARRING DARLA MANNERS

NEW MUSICAL YES YES YVONNE STARRING DARLA MANNERS

And then...the unforgettable horror of that December day...!

HOW FRIGHTFUL! ALL THOSE POOR BOYS KILLED WITHOUT A CHANCE!

JUST WHEN WE HAVE ANOTHER HIT ON OUR HANDS! I WONDER WHAT THIS WILL DO TO THE BOX OFFICE!

PEARL HARBOR BOMBED

BROADWAY ROMANCES

The show was a smash hit...but I took more and more time to help all I could in the big job we all faced!

WHAT'LL IT BE, FOLKS? THE BOYS IN FRONT HAVE ALL MY RECORDINGS! I'LL GIVE ONE WITH EVERY BOND SOLD TODAY!



And then I made the move that changed everything...

I'M SORRY, HAROLD, BUT MY MIND IS MADE UP! THERE WON'T BE ANY NEW OPENING THIS FALL FOR ME!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS! ARE YOU CRAZY, GOING OFF TO EUROPE WITH A BUNCH OF U.S.O. HAMS? WHAT ABOUT ME? YOU'LL RUIN MY CAREER!



I put in long, weary, happy hours at the Stage Door Canteen!

SHELDON! JIMMY SHELDON IS HIS NAME! I'M SURE HE'S IN THE SERVICE SOMEWHERE!

IF I EVER HEAR OF HIM, MISS MANNERS, YOU BET I'LL LET YOU KNOW! WHAT KIND OF A MUG IS HE, RUNNING OUT ON A GIRL LIKE YOU?



It was raining when our group took off for Newfoundland, and the storm grew steadily worse!

I TH-THINK I'M GETTING AIRSICK! HOW BAD CAN THESE STORMS GET?

NOT HALF AS BAD AS THE BOYS GO THROUGH EVERY DAY OVER GERMANY, KIT! IT RAINS FIRE AND STEEL ON THEM! THIS IS ONLY WATER!



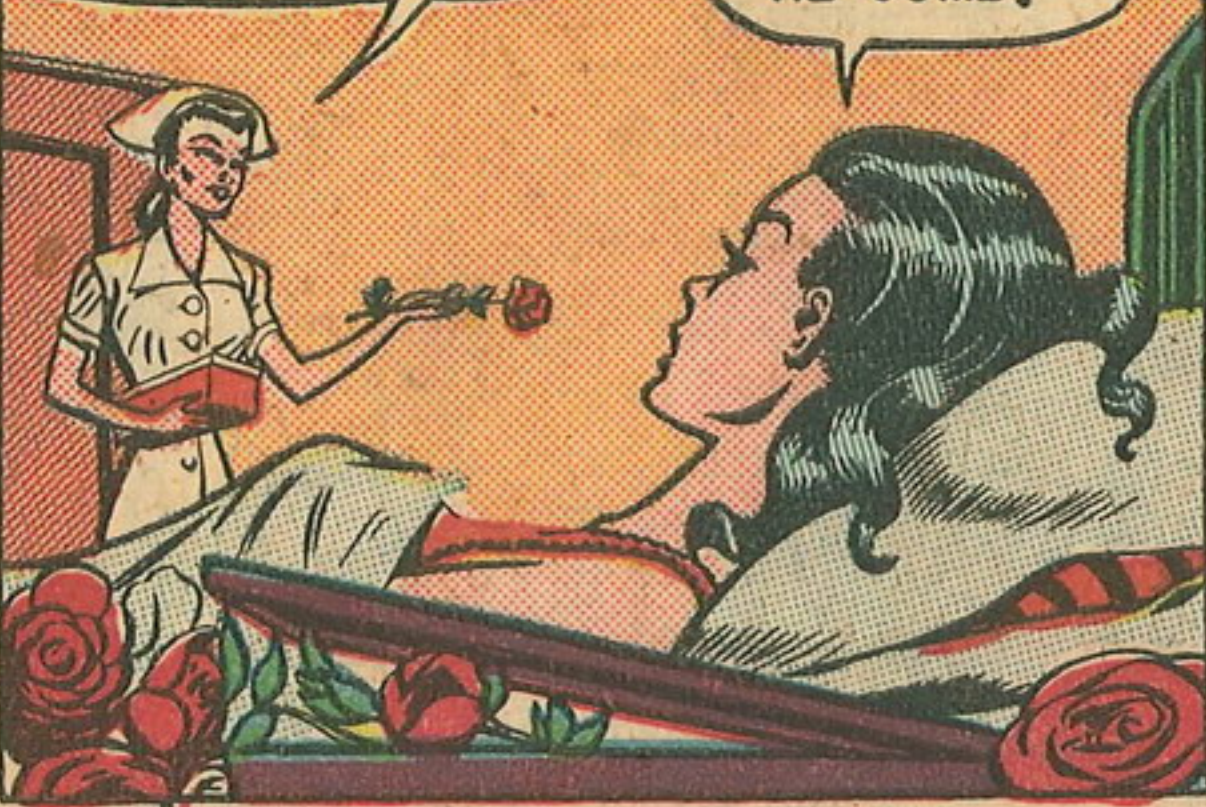
But rain was enough, up there near Gander Bay, on the first leg of a flight that was never finished...



At first there was a deluge of flowers, enough for everyone in the army hospital where they took me after the crash!

THIS IS QUEER! AFTER ALL THOSE GIGANTIC BOUQUETS, HERE'S ONE RED ROSE WITH NO NAME CARD!

JIMMY! JIMMY! OH, WHERE IS HE? WHY DOESN'T HE COME?



Months became years...and then the flowers and messages dwindled away! But each birthday, a lone red rose came out of the past!

I'M JUST THE FLORIST, MISS! I GET A TELEGRAPH ORDER FROM NEW YORK WITH NO NAME ON IT! IT'S PAID, SO I DELIVER THE ROSE!

ALL... ALL RIGHT! THANK YOU, ANYHOW, FOR COMING OUT! I'D HOPED YOU MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HIM!

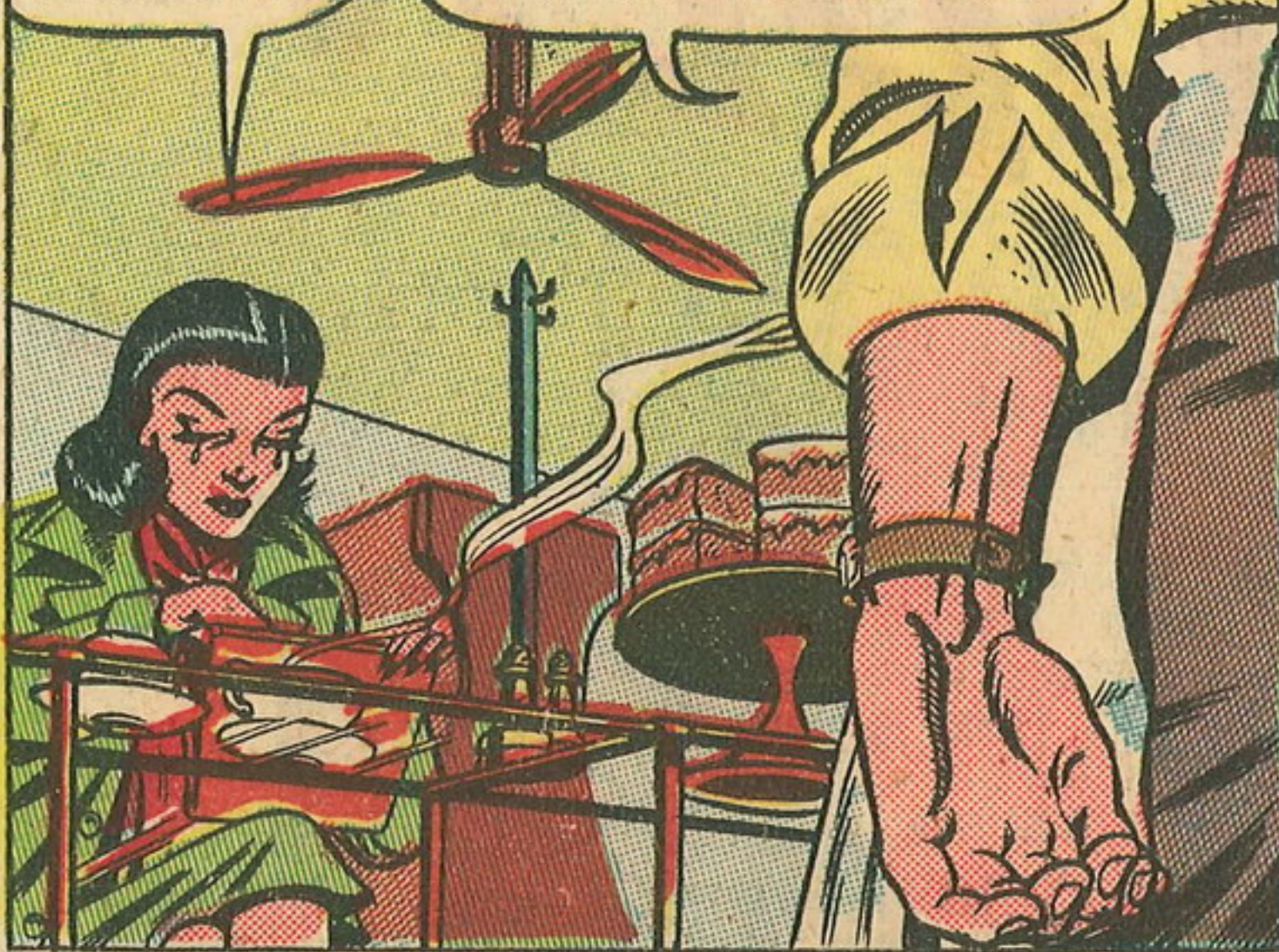


BROADWAY ROMANCES

Then the memories were gone and I was back in the dismal, lonely present!

I HAVE TO GO! HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?

EAT THAT SINKER, AND NO ARGUMENTS! IT'S ON THE HOUSE... DISHWASHER'S BIRTHDAY!



JIMMY! NO, IT CAN'T BE! I'M STILL MIXED UP WITH MEMORIES!

IF I CAN ALWAYS BE MIXED UP IN YOUR MEMORIES, DARLA, I'D ASK NO MORE OF LIFE!



OH, MY DEAREST, IT'S BEEN SO LONG, SO TERRIBLY LONG ... WITH SO MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING FOR YOU!

WHY, JIMMY... WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE OR COME TO ME? YOU KNEW WHERE I WAS! YOU ALWAYS SENT THE ROSE!



I HAD TO KNOW YOUR FUTURE, DARLING! AS LONG AS THERE WAS ANY CHANCE OF YOUR STARRING, I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERFERE!

I'LL NEVER STAR AGAIN, JIMMY! I CAN WALK, BUT I'LL NEVER DANCE! AND SOMETHING WENT OUT OF MY SINGING! I'M THROUGH WITH THE STAGE!



As if in a dream, I heard Jimmy's story! He had finished and sold his play... the play I had promised to star in!

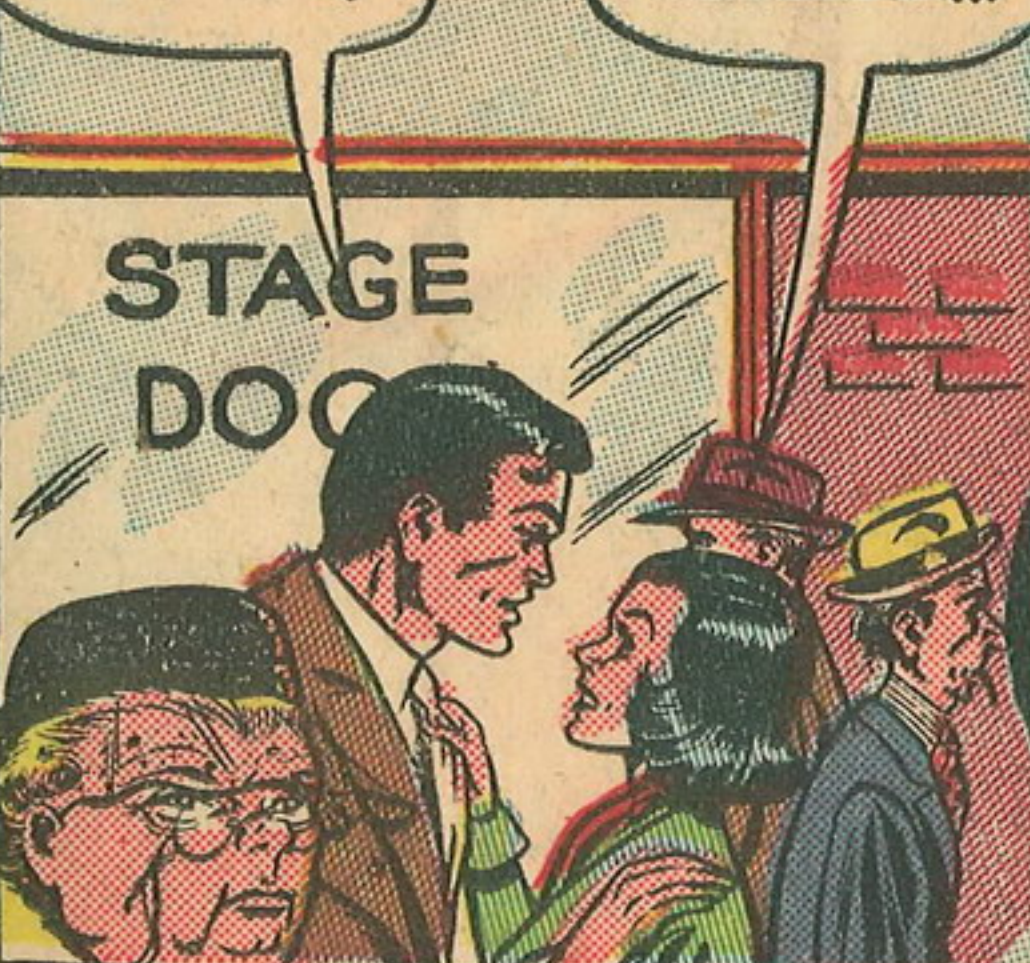
BUT IT WASN'T TOO GOOD! I REALIZED I'D NEVER BE A TOP WRITER! WHAT I REALLY WANTED WAS TO BE ON BROADWAY, HELPING OTHERS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JIMMY? HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING HERE, SINCE YOU CAME BACK FROM THE WAR?



IN A WAY! I OWN THE STAGE DOOR, DEAREST ... BOUGHT IT WITH THE PROCEEDS OF MY ONE PLAY! I'VE KEPT EVERYTHING AS IT WAS WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU!

YOU... YOU BIG, SILLY SENTIMENTAL GOOF! I HAD TO ASK YOU FOR OUR FIRST DATE! REMEMBER..?

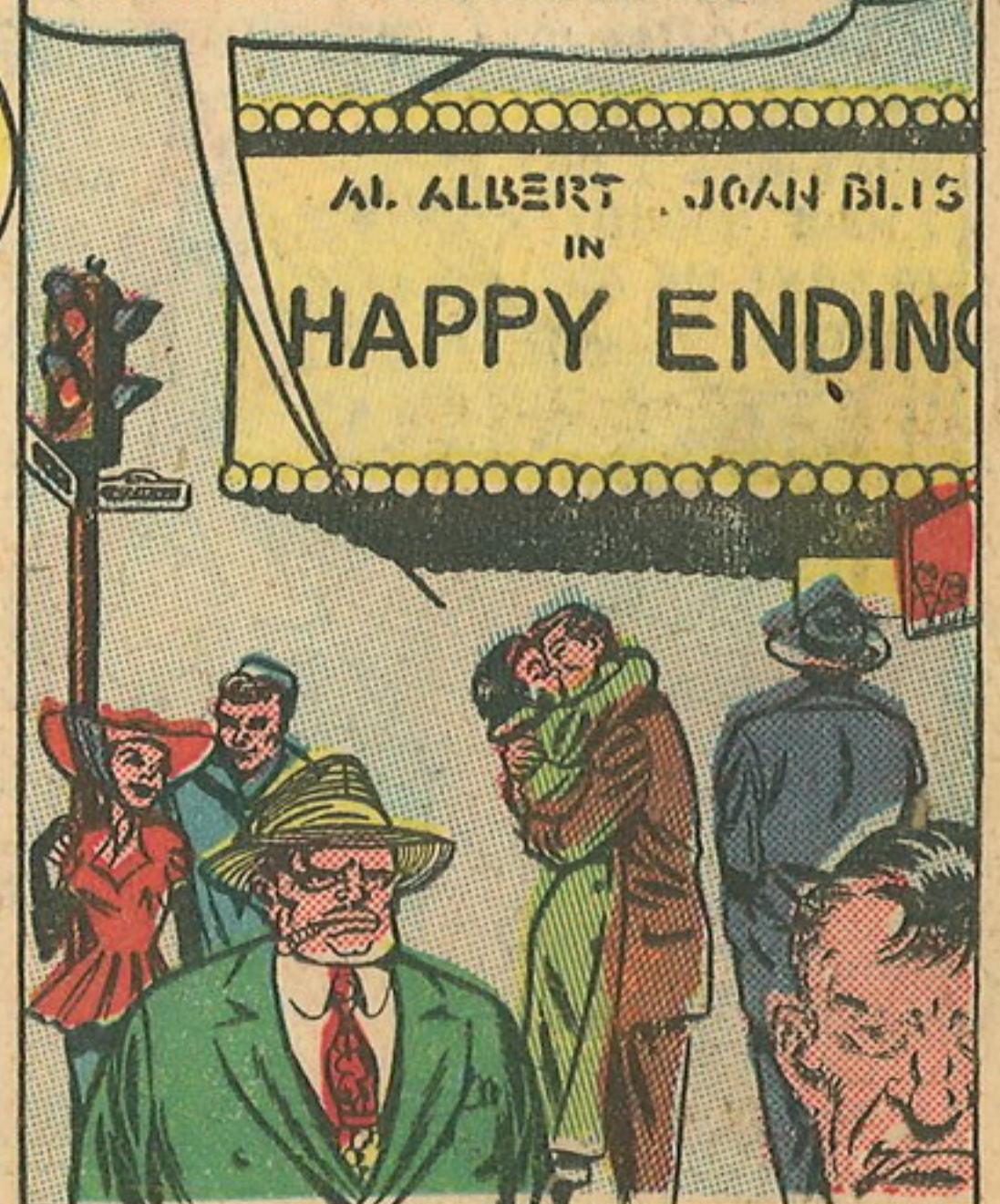


DO I HAVE TO REPEAT THE PATTERN AND PROPOSE TO YOU?

DARLA... DARLA, MY OWN! I'VE BEEN FRIGHTENED! YOU HAD EVERYTHING AT YOUR FEET! I COULDN'T DARE HOPE YOU'D BE HAPPY WITH THIS!



IF YOU WON'T HUSH YOUR BIG, SILLY MOUTH... I'LL DO IT FOR YOU!



MY FORBIDDEN ROMANCE



YOU'RE A FOOL, CARLA!
SCOTT DOESN'T LOVE
YOU--HE LOVES YOUR
FAME! EVERY TIME
HE KISSES YOU, HE
LAUGHS AT YOU BEHIND
YOUR BACK!

OH, NO! NO!

AS CARLA VARAY, FAMOUS
BROADWAY STAR, I KNEW FAME
AND FORTUNE--AND THE BREATH-
LESS THRILL OF SEEING MY
NAME IN LIGHTS! YET, ONE DAY,
I WAS TO RUE THAT VERY FAME
FOR DENYING ME MY RIGHT TO
LOVE!

It all started when I was a small child and had
lost my parents in a motor accident? Aunt
Ellen was the only one I had and she vowed
to look after me!

OH, AUNT ELLEN,
WHAT WILL I DO?
I HAVE NOBODY
TO LOVE ME ANY
MORE!

DON'T CRY, CHILD!
I'LL LOVE YOU
AND TAKE CARE
OF YOU! I'VE
BEEN PRETTY
LONELY, TOO,
BUT NOW WE
HAVE EACH
OTHER!

I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY,
YOU'LL SEE! WOULD YOU
LIKE TO GO TO DANCING
SCHOOL, CARLA, TO TRAIN
FOR THE STAGE?

GOSH, YES,
AUNT ELLEN!
YOU'RE--
YOU'RE
WONDERFUL!



BROADWAY ROMANCES

So it began...the intensive training and practice that was to bring me stardom!

SPLENDID, CARLA! SOMEDAY YOU'LL DO THAT TO THE APPLAUSE OF A BROADWAY AUDIENCE!



Then drama and voice lessons... Aunt Ellen spared nothing in her zeal to give me the best!

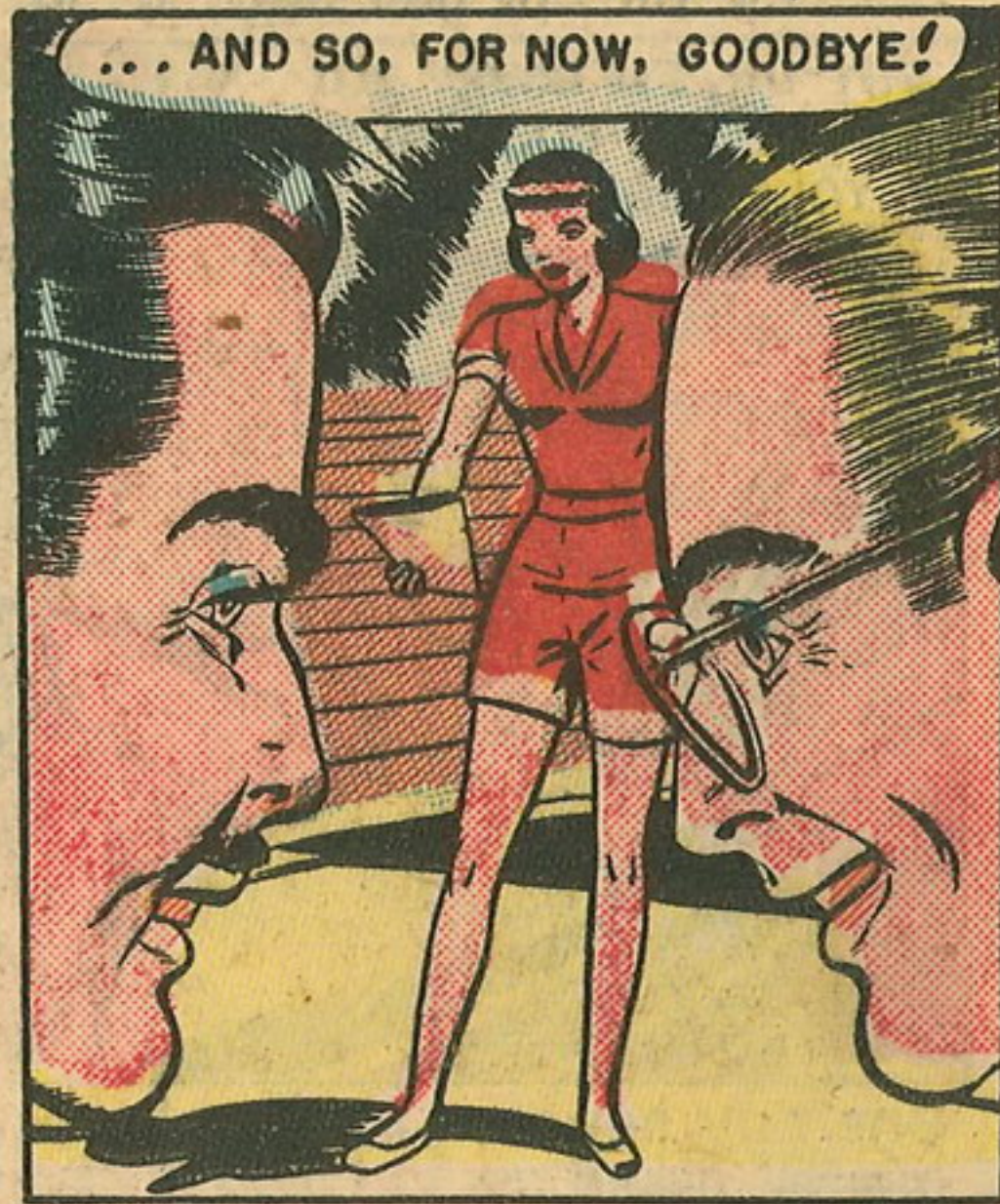
SHE'S READY FOR THE BIG TIME RIGHT NOW! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER UP TO JOCK BEMBERTON'S AUDITION FOR HIS NEW SHOW?

I WILL, MR. STERLING, AND THANKS FOR THE TIP!



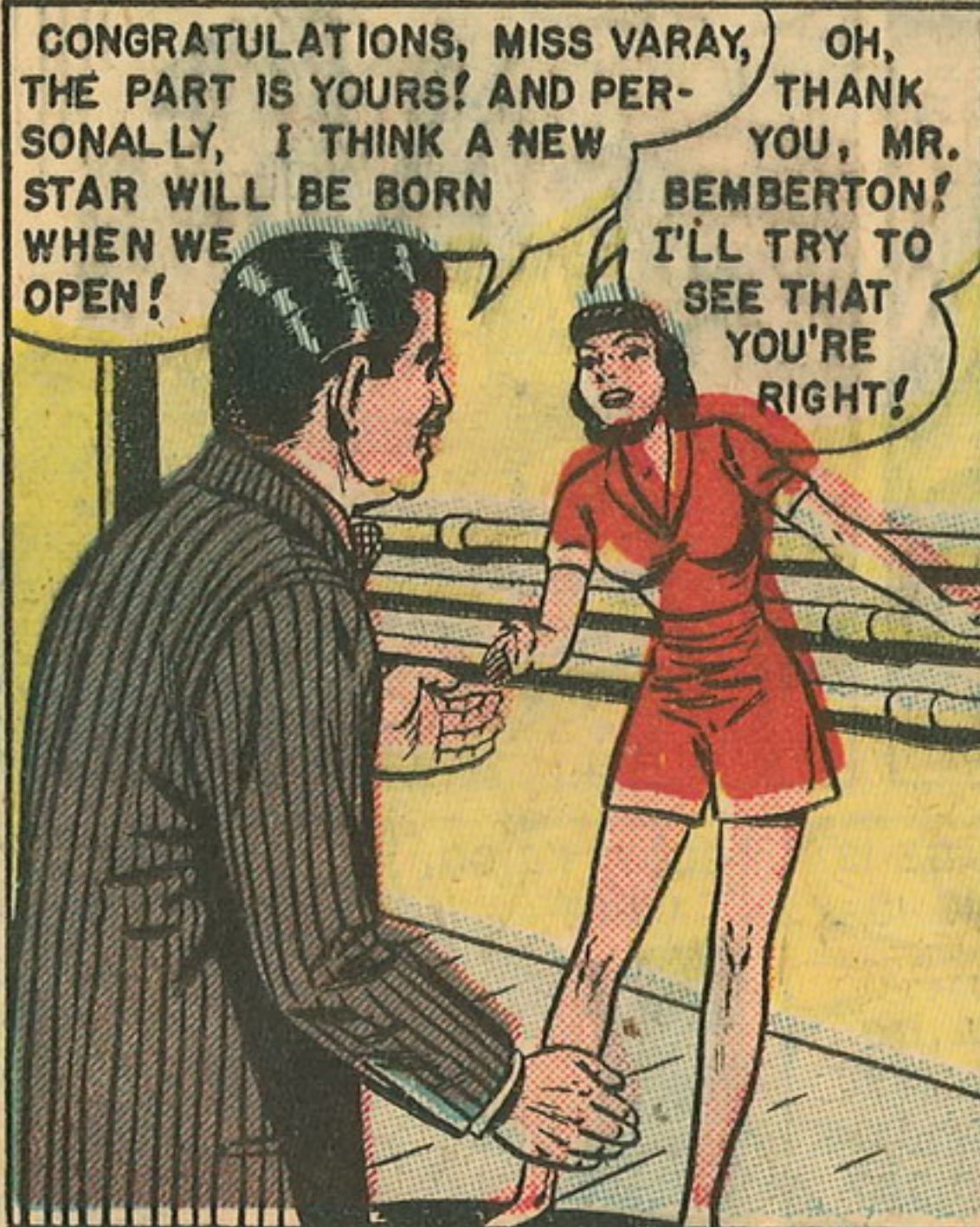
And the next day I found myself standing on the stage of the famous Delasco Theatre, reading for Mr. Bemberton himself!

... AND SO, FOR NOW, GOODBYE!



CONGRATULATIONS, MISS VARAY, THE PART IS YOURS! AND PERSONALLY, I THINK A NEW STAR WILL BE BORN WHEN WE OPEN!

OH, THANK YOU, MR. BEMBERTON! I'LL TRY TO SEE THAT YOU'RE RIGHT!



There was no doubt of my success on opening night! Rave notices, flowers, top billing-- they were all mine!

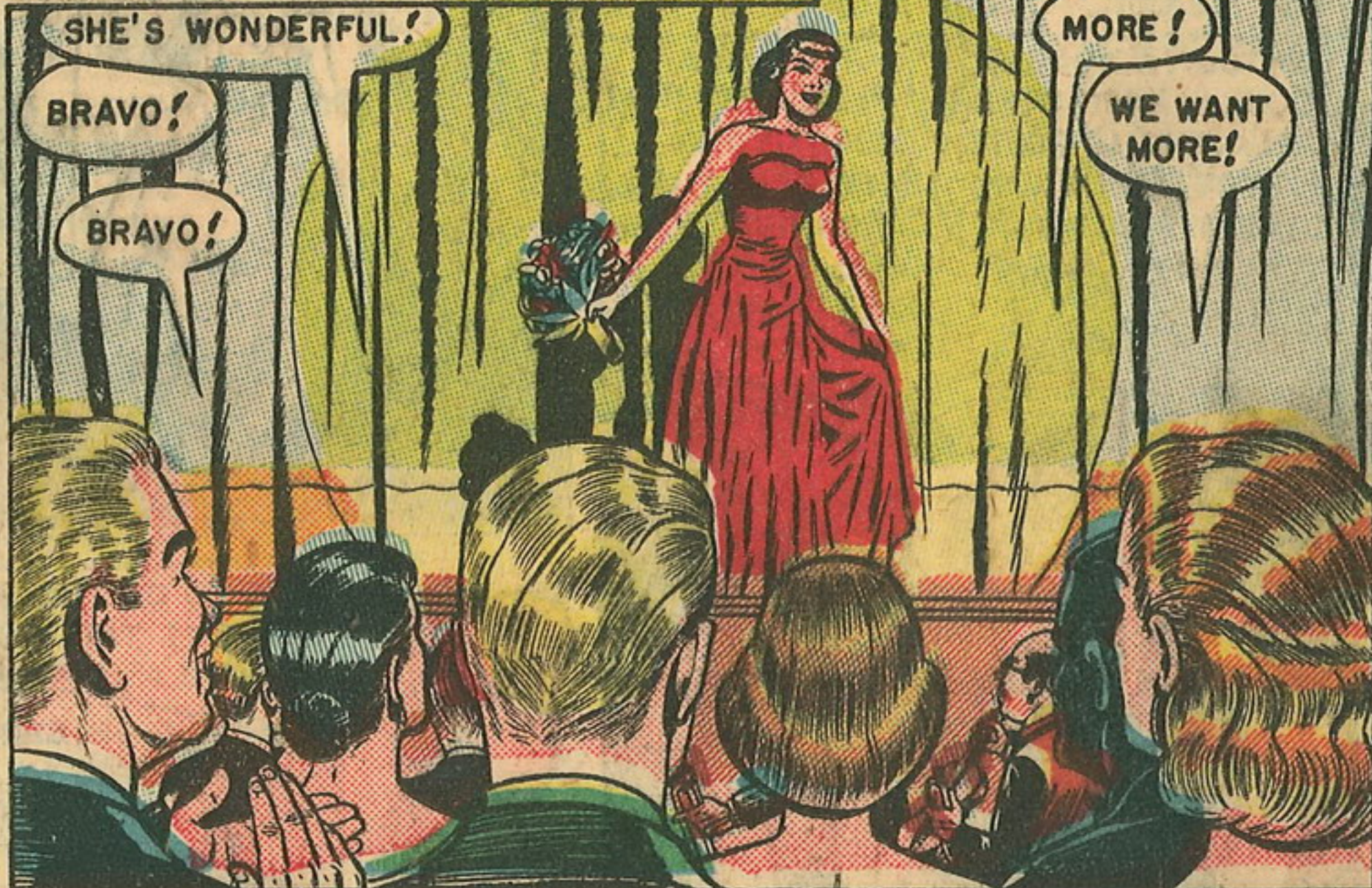
SHE'S WONDERFUL!

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

MORE!

WE WANT MORE!



I DID IT, AUNT ELLEN, I'M A HIT! AND I OWE IT ALL TO YOU! OH, DARLING, TELL ME HOW I CAN REPAY YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME!

JUST KEEP ON BEING A SUCCESS, DEAR, THAT'S ALL I ASK!



DON'T LET ANYTHING TURN YOUR HEAD, CHILD--ESPECIALLY FALSE FLATTERY BY MEN WHO WANT TO SHARE YOUR LIMELIGHT! REMEMBER MY ADVICE!

OH, I WILL, AUNT ELLEN! I'LL DO JUST AS YOU SAY!



BROADWAY ROMANCES

Many were the dates I refused on Aunt Ellen's say so--and if I was lonely, I hastily recalled all she had done for me!



WHY-UH, I'M SORRY BUT I'LL BE TOO BUSY TO SEE YOU! GOOD-BYE!

GOOD GIRL!

One day, however, Mr. Bemberton himself asked me to lunch to discuss a change in the script, and suddenly, before I had time to think, a stranger was standing at our table!



SAY, YOU TWO OUGHT TO KNOW EACH OTHER! CARLA, THIS IS SCOTT SUTTON, AN UP-AND-COMING PLAYWRIGHT!

THIS IS A PLEASURE! I'VE CAUGHT YOUR SHOW MANY TIMES, CARLA, AND OFTEN HOPED I'D GET CLOSER THAN THE TENTH ROW!

TALENT, GRACE, AND YOU'RE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL OFF STAGE THAN ON! HOW COULD YOUR SHOW *MISS BEING* A HIT WITH CARLA, MR. BEMBERTON!

THAT'S NOT ALL TRUE, BUT IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS NICE, SCOTT!



SORRY TO RUN, BUT I'M LATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT! IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I LEAVE YOU IN SCOTT'S CARE, CARLA?

WHY--WHY, YES, MR. BEMBERTON! FINE!



Fine was not the only word I had in mind--wonderful, thrilling would have been more like it! Every time our glances met, my heart leaped! I was in love!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO DANCING, CARLA? THE EVENING IS STILL YOUNG!

OH, I REALLY SHOULDN'T... BUT I WILL!

DANCING ON THE STAGE IS FUN, BUT THIS--THIS IS HEAVENLY!

OH, CARLA, DO YOU MEAN IT? DO YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY I DO?



SCOTT! I DO, I DO!

DARLING!

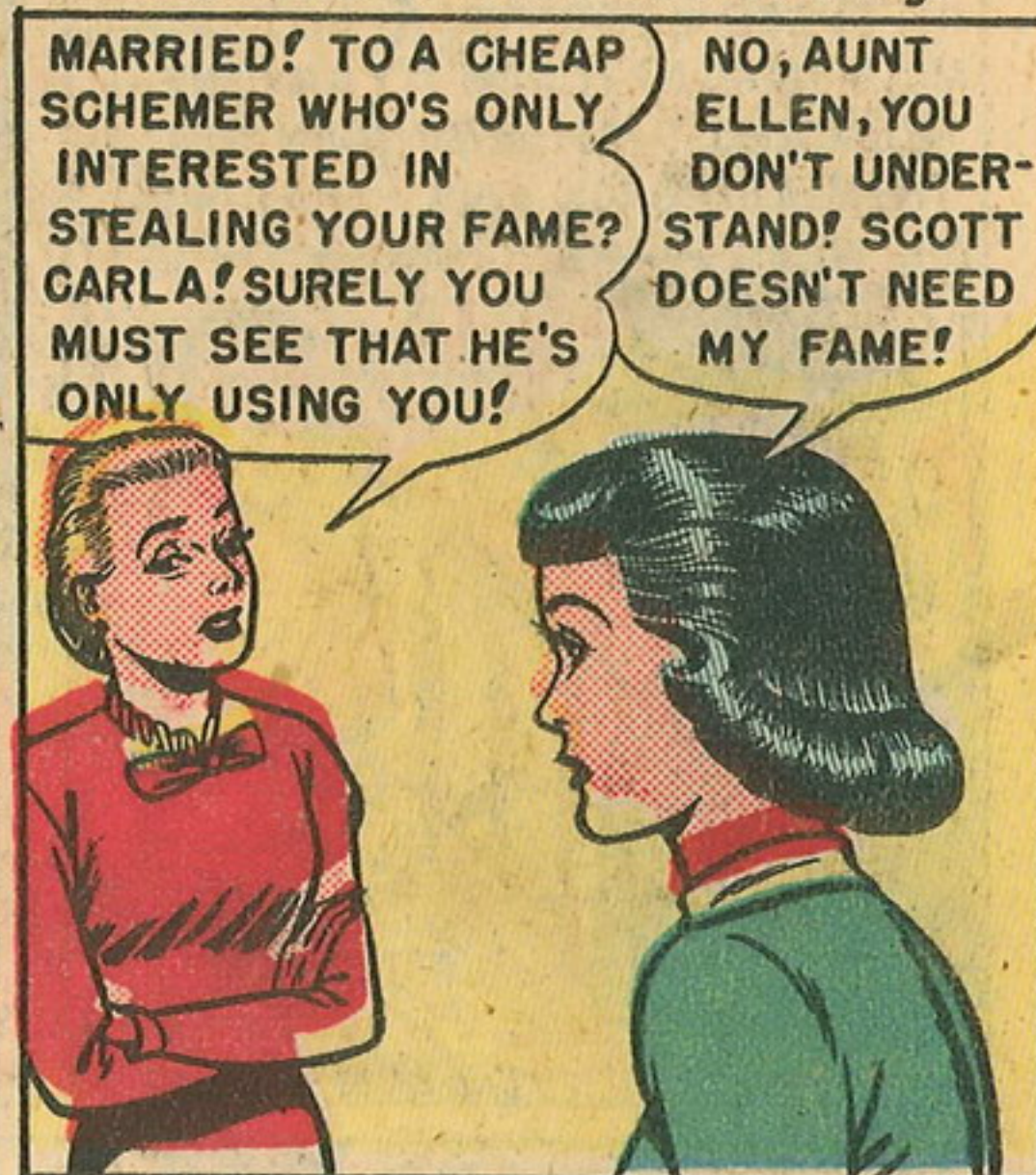


BROADWAY ROMANCES

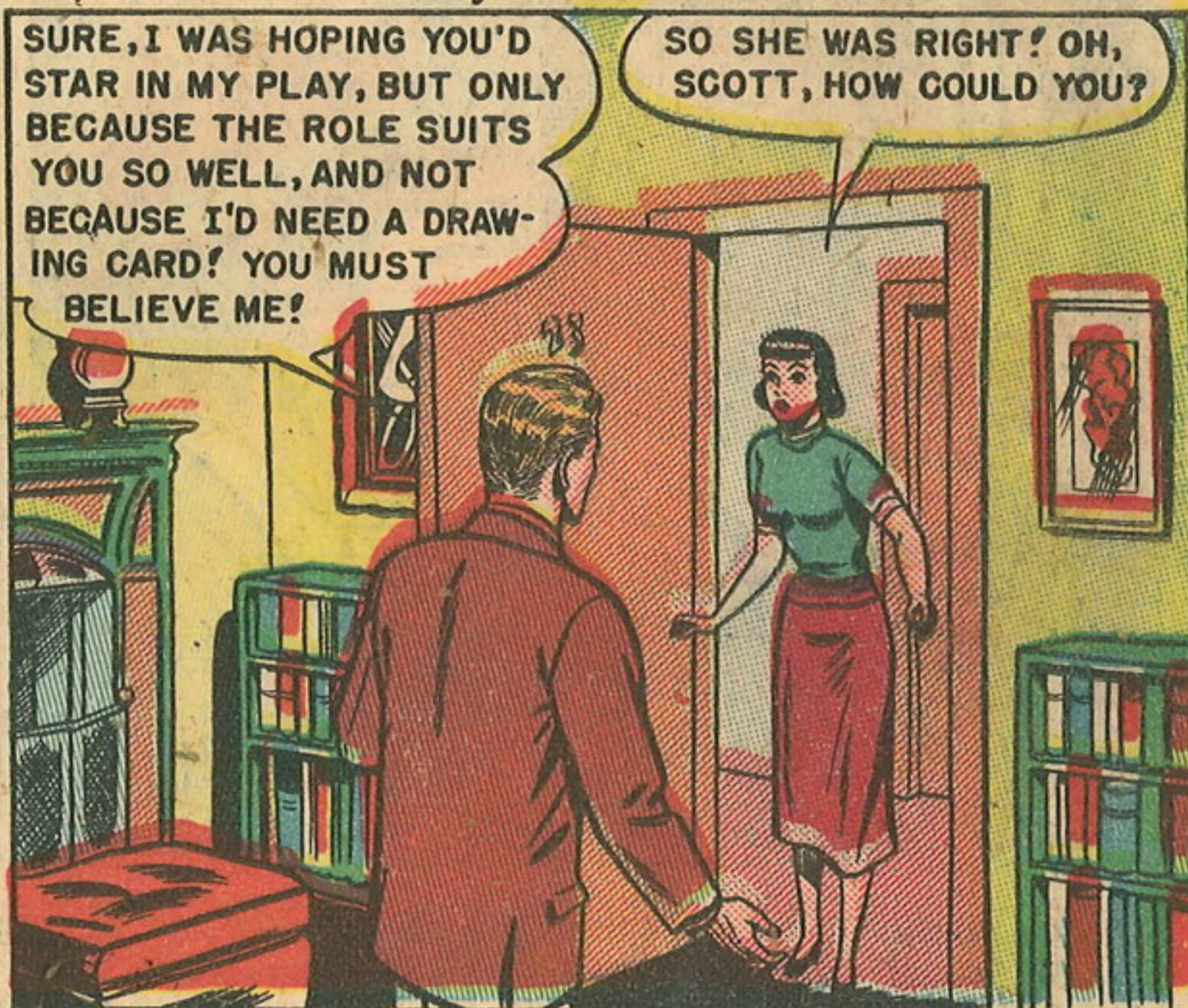
The days that followed were like a dream, full of laughter and romance! I saw Scott more and more! Finally, one night...



When I reached home, I rushed to Aunt Ellen's room, but the hurt look on her face should have warned me of what was coming!



In a frenzy, I rushed to Scott's apartment and implored him to deny Aunt Ellen's claim!



I walked the streets that night and when morning mercifully came, I knew what I must do!

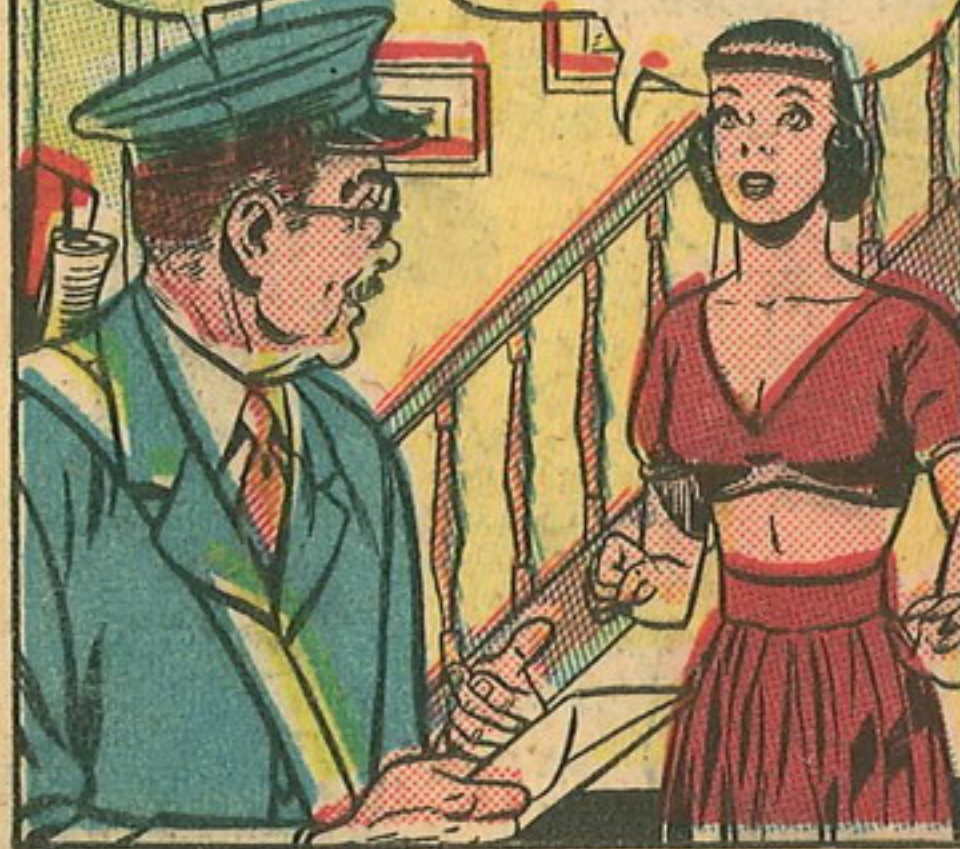


BROADWAY ROMANCES

I went back to the old family house and locked myself away from the world!

DON'T YOU WANT TO OPEN AND READ ONE OF THESE LETTERS, MISS CARLA? IT DON'T SEEM RIGHT TO SEND THEM ALL BACK THIS WAY!

NO, PETE! THERE'S NOTHING ANYONE CAN WRITE THAT WILL CHANGE THINGS!



I LOVED YOU SO MUCH, SCOTT! I STILL LOVE YOU--BUT MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL BE ABLE TO FORGET!



VISITORS? THEY MUST HAVE THE WRONG HOUSE!



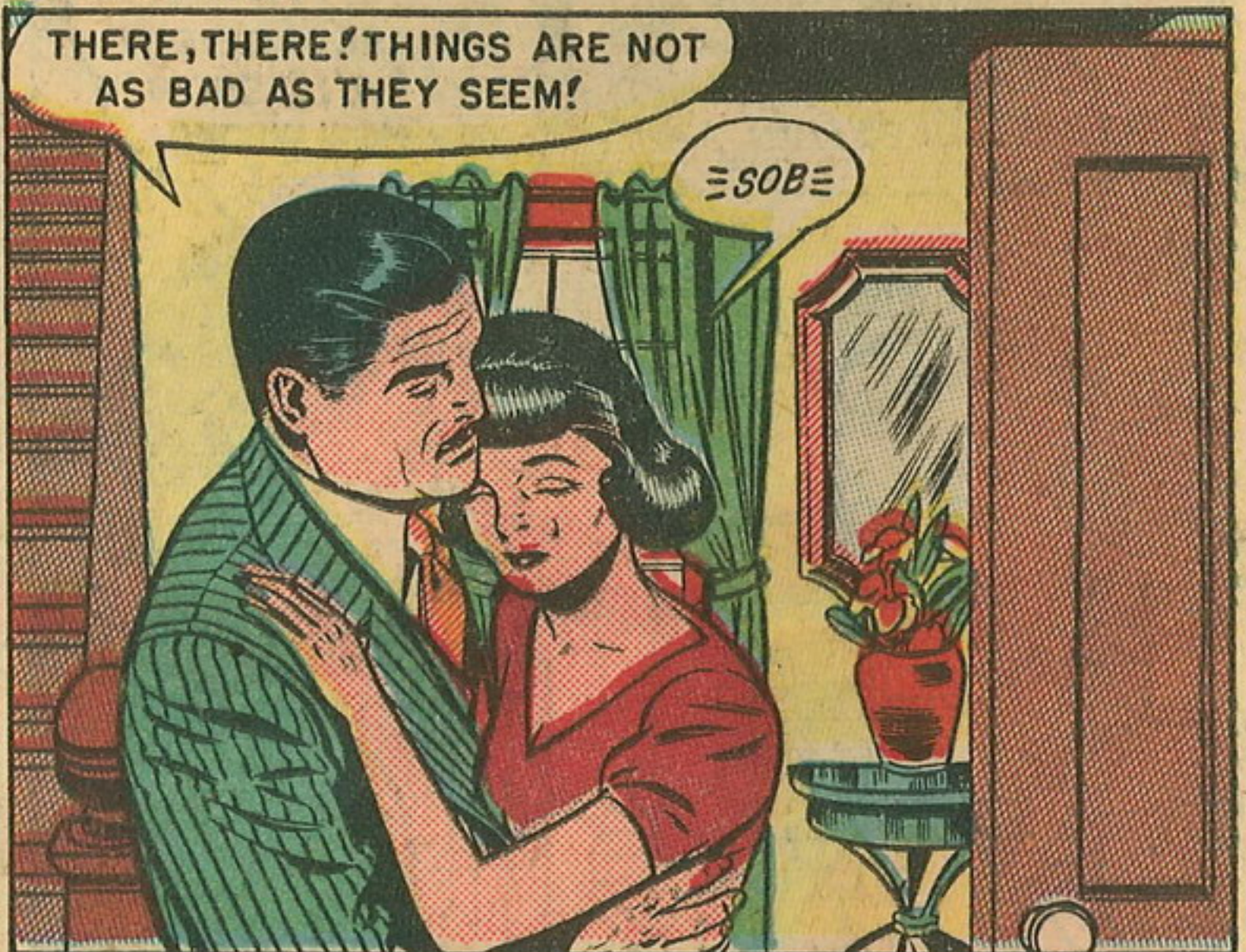
MR. BEMBERTON! BUT HOW DID YOU...

CARLA, MY DEAR! MAY I COME IN AND TALK WITH YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES?

The sound of his kind voice suddenly broke through my reserve, and the flood of bitter tears broke the dam at last!

THERE, THERE! THINGS ARE NOT AS BAD AS THEY SEEM!

SOB



OH, MR. BEMBERTON, I'M SO SORRY! BUT EVERYTHING'S SO HOPELESS! WHAT'S THE USE...

LOOK, CHILD, I HAVE SOMETHING YOU OUGHT TO SEE!

WHY, THEY'RE PLAY REVIEWS OF TWENTY YEARS AGO! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

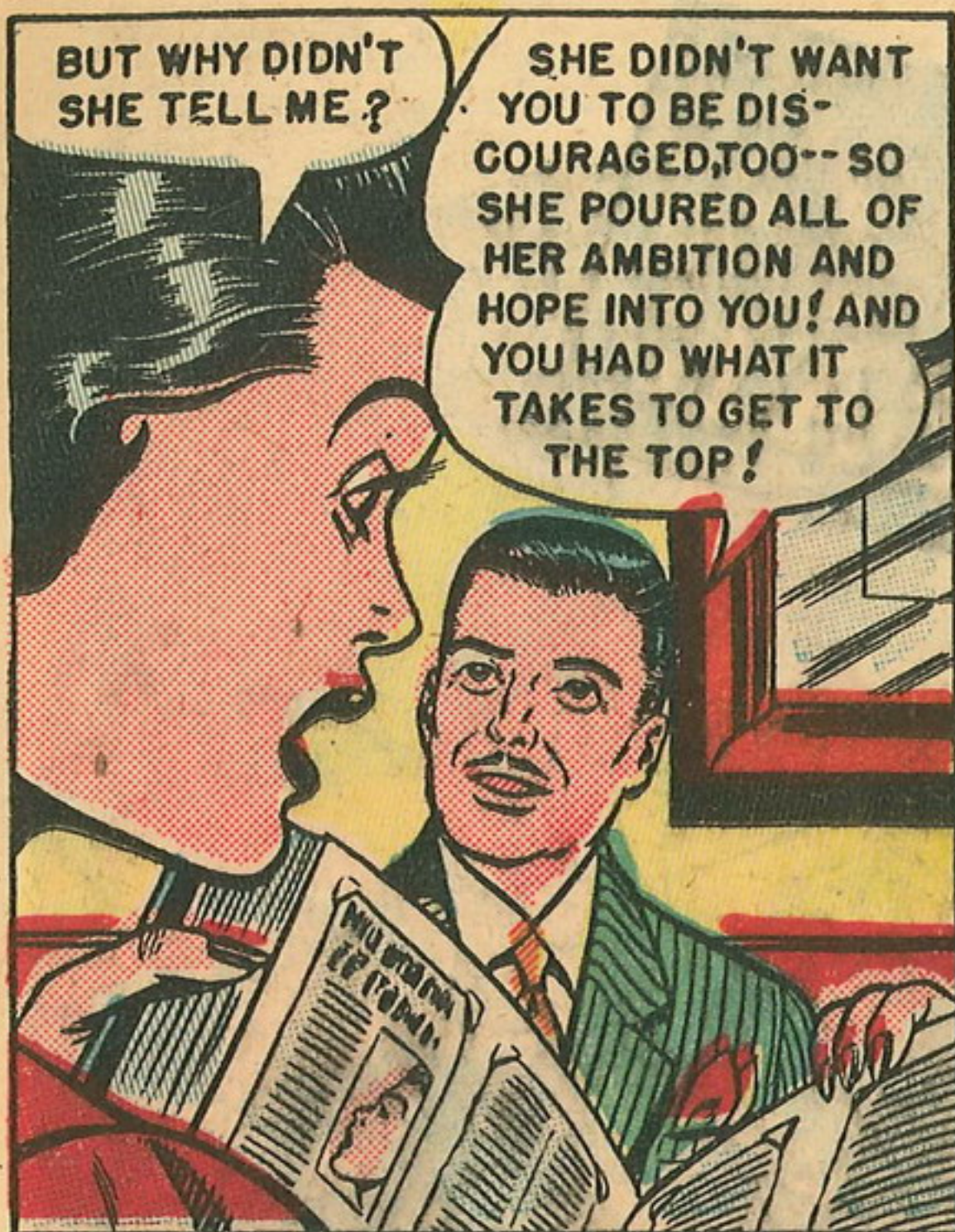
YES, CARLA, AND DO YOU SEE WHOSE NAME IS MENTIONED THERE?

"ELLEN VARAY"... THAT'S AUNT ELLEN! I NEVER KNEW SHE WAS IN THE THEATER!

IF YOU READ ON, YOU'LL SEE THAT THE REVIEW WAS VERY BAD, ENOUGH TO DISCOURAGE ANY YOUNG HOPEFUL! THE DISAPPOINTMENT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER AND SHE LEFT THE STAGE!



BROADWAY ROMANCES



BUT WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL ME?

SHE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE DISCOURAGED, TOO-- SO SHE POURED ALL OF HER AMBITION AND HOPE INTO YOU! AND YOU HAD WHAT IT TAKES TO GET TO THE TOP!



POOR AUNT ELLEN! NO WONDER SHE CONCENTRATED SO HARD ON MAKING ME A SUCCESS!

BUT SHE FORGOT THAT YOU'RE A WOMAN, TOO--AND IN HER FRUSTRATION, SHE TOLD YOU SOMETHING THAT WASN'T TRUE ABOUT SCOTT!



YOU MEAN HE LOVES ME-- REALLY LOVES ME? HE WASN'T JUST PLAYING UP TO ME?

I THINK THERE'S SOMEONE OUTSIDE WHO CAN ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS BETTER THAN I CAN!

When my startled mind had realized the meaning of his words, I flashed through the door into Scott's waiting arms--and as he kissed me, I knew I could never deny my love for him!



DARLING!

OH, SCOTT!



CARLA, MY DEAR, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?

I KNOW YOU JUST WANTED THE BEST FOR ME, AUNT ELLEN, BUT I FOUND THAT SCOTT MADE THE BEST EVEN BETTER!

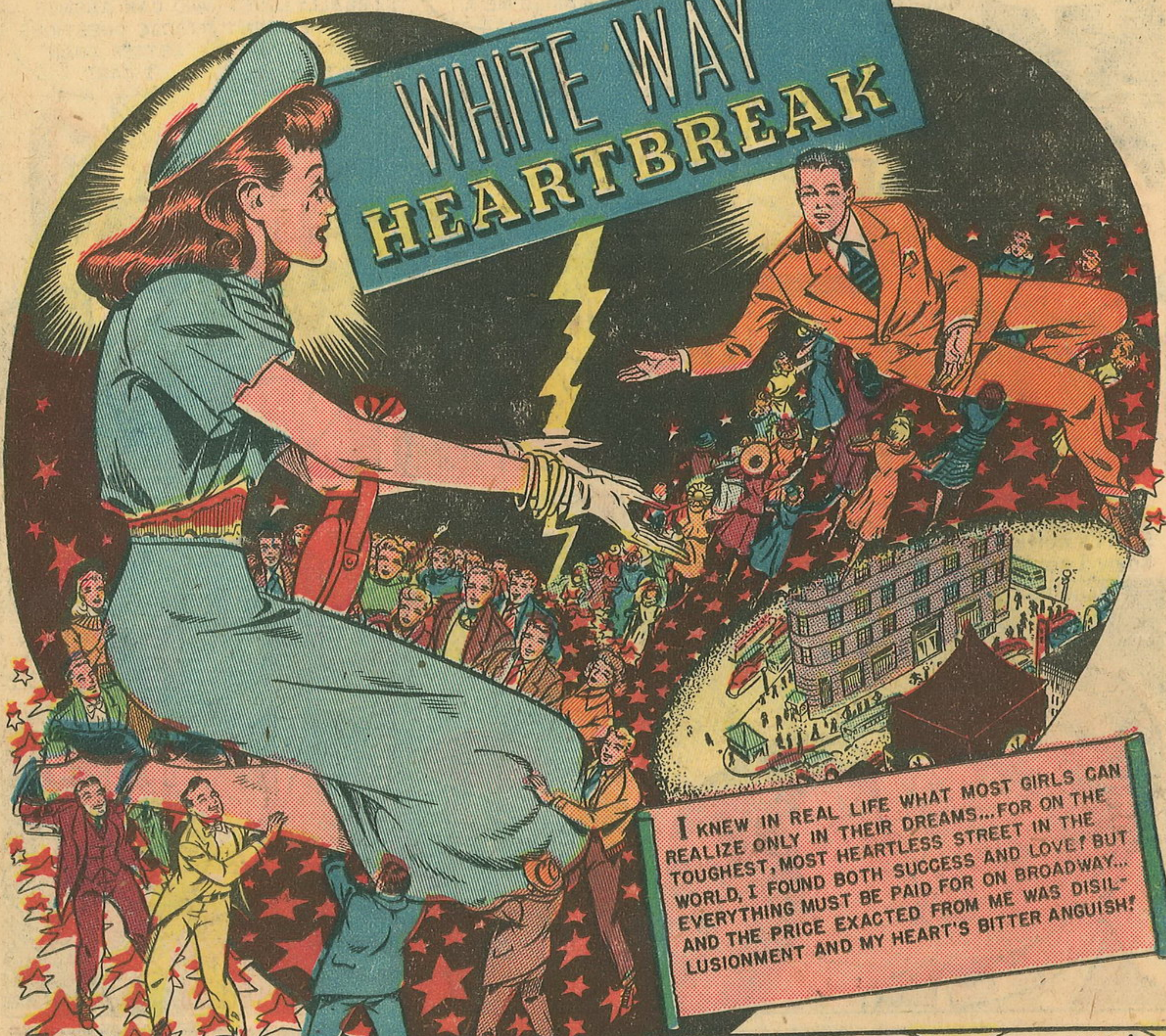


I WAS FOOLISH AND BLIND, BUT I SEE NOW! COME BACK TO ALL OF US, CARLA-- WE NEED YOU!



OF COURSE I'LL COME-- BUT I REALLY NEVER LEFT YOU AT ALL!

WHITE WAY HEARTBREAK



I KNEW IN REAL LIFE WHAT MOST GIRLS CAN REALIZE ONLY IN THEIR DREAMS...FOR ON THE TOUGHEST, MOST HEARTLESS STREET IN THE WORLD, I FOUND BOTH SUCCESS AND LOVE! BUT EVERYTHING MUST BE PAID FOR ON BROADWAY... AND THE PRICE EXACTED FROM ME WAS DISILLUSIONMENT AND MY HEART'S BITTER ANGUISH!

I TELL YOU, WENDY, I CAN PUT YOU OVER ON BROADWAY! YOU'VE GOT A SINGING STYLE... A WAY OF PUTTING OVER A GAG THAT'S MADE TO ORDER!

IT...IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE, MR. YOKUM!

NIX ON THE MR. YOKUM STUFF! BEN'S THE NAME... AND TO BEN YOKUM NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE!

ALL RIGHT! I SUPPOSE I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE!

I had had a small success on the radio back in Water-ville but I was hardly prepared for the surprise when agent Ben Yokum came to see me...



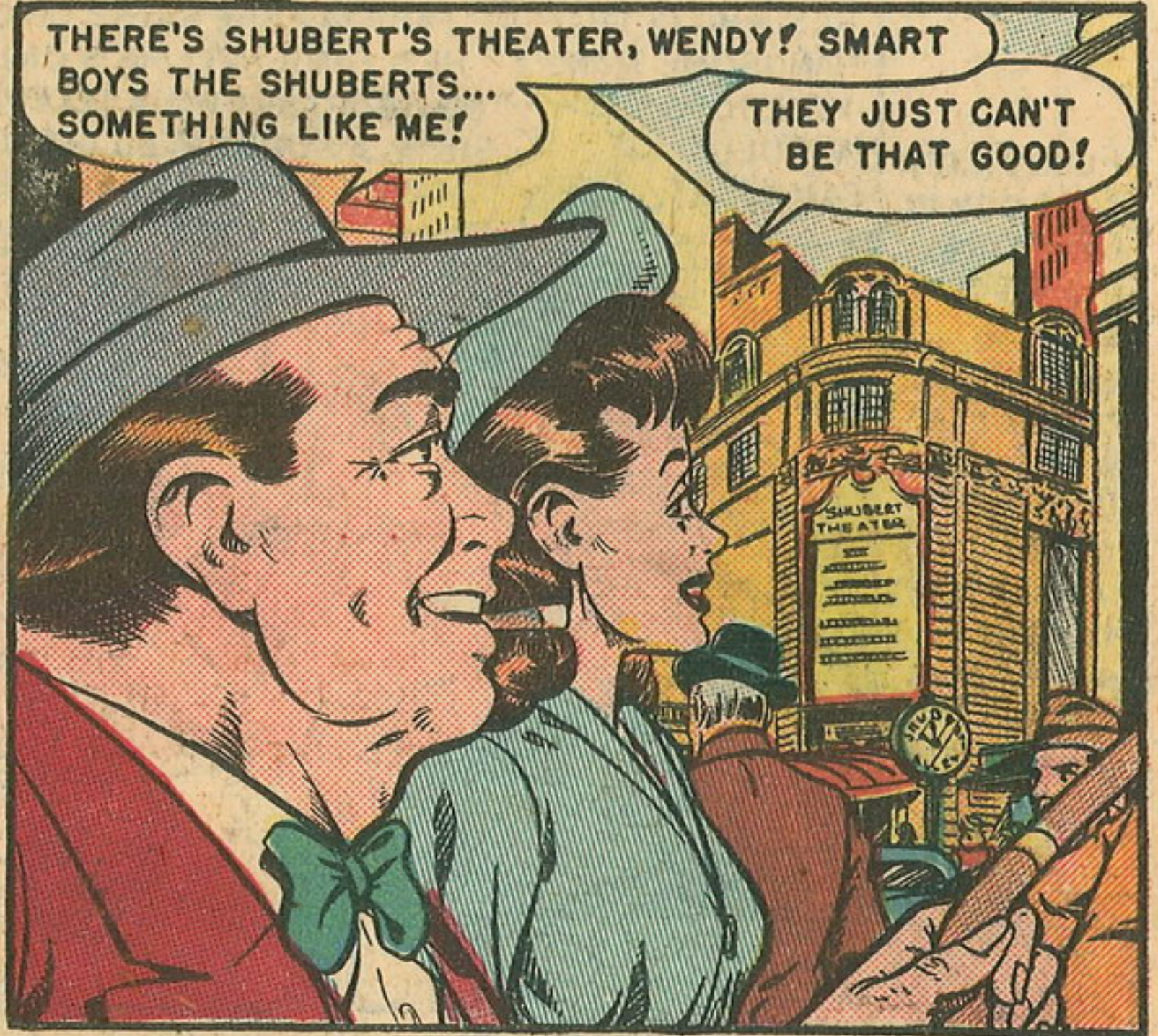
BROADWAY ROMANCES

No, I had nothing to lose but the peace and contentment I had known in Waterville... nothing to lose but nights of sleep... nothing to lose but my trusting heart! But several days later I saw Broadway for the first time!



FIRST STEP IS TO GET YOU WHAT THEY CALL ORIENTATED! SEE SOME OF THE SPOTS... MEET A FEW OF THE RIGHT PEOPLE!

LEAD THE WAY BEN!



THERE'S SHUBERT'S THEATER, WENDY! SMART BOYS THE SHUBERTS... SOMETHING LIKE ME!

THEY JUST CAN'T BE THAT GOOD!



AND HERE'S SARDI'S! HOW ABOUT A SANDWICH?

OH, COULD I TRY CAVIAR?

THREE DAYS OUT OF WATERVILLE AND ONLY CAVIAR'LL DO! ALL RIGHT... FOR A GAL WHO'S GONNA BE A STAR ONLY THE BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH!



Ben's orientation course had a strange effect on me! At the same time I felt both the tingle of eager excitement and an unexplainable fear that I was tackling something too big for me! Later that day...

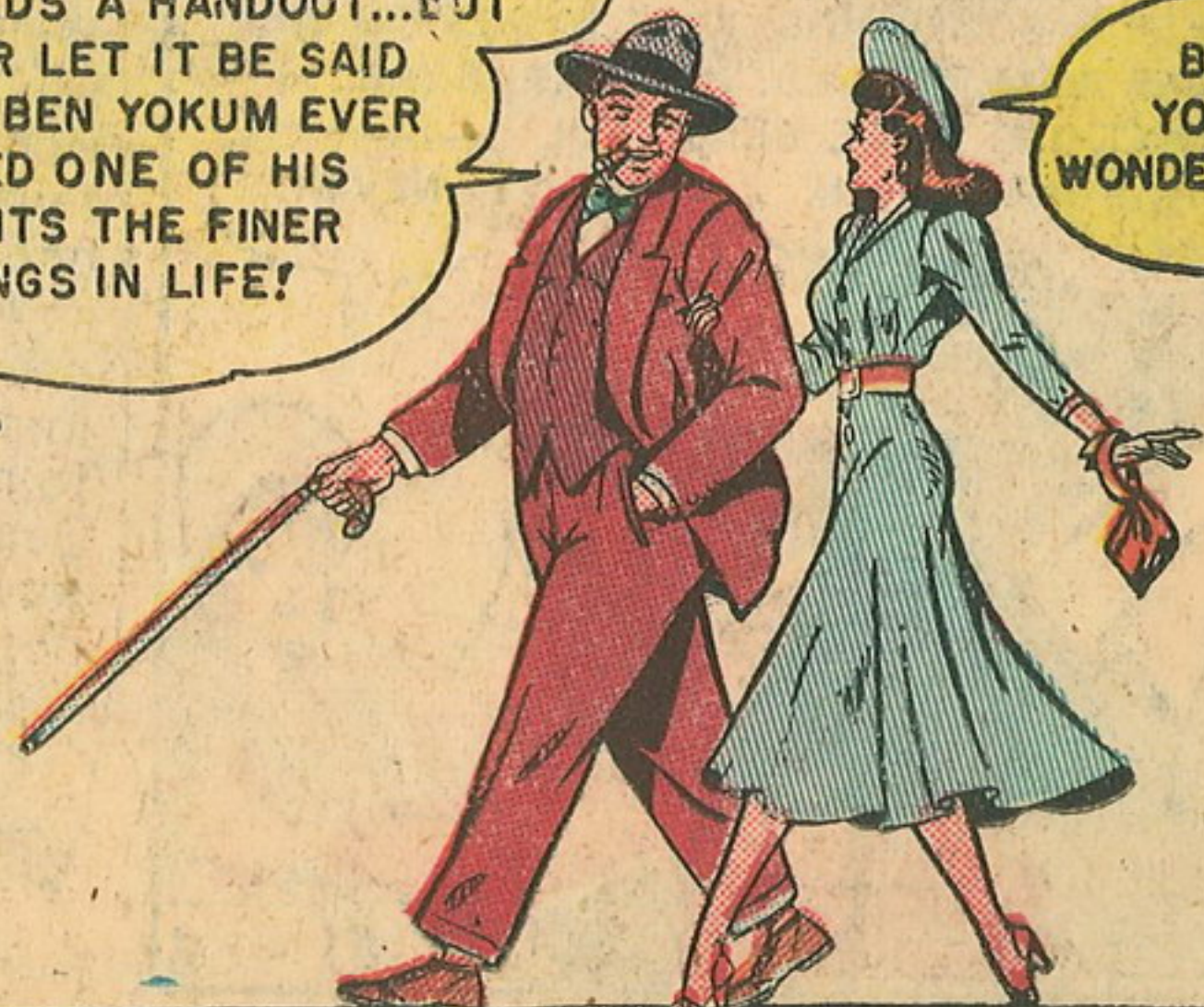
THERE'S THE ZIEGFELD THEATER! ZIGGY WAS ANOTHER BOY WHO KNEW THE SCORE ON BROADWAY! TWO TO ONE HE'D HAVE MADE A HEADLINER OF YOU GOODNESS, BEN, WE JUST THE WAY I'M GONNA DO! MUST HAVE SEEN EVERYTHING BY NOW!



WE HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED... BUT IT'LL DO FOR THE FIRST DAY! C'MON, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER. AND WHERE IN THIS VAST LAND CAN YOU FIND A BETTER PLACE FOR THAT THAN LINDY'S?

I'VE READ ABOUT LINDY'S CHEESE CAKE IN WINCHELL'S COLUMN SO MANY TIMES THAT I'VE JUST GOT TO HAVE SOME!

YOU NEED CHEESE CAKE LIKE ROCKEFELLER NEEDS A HANDOUT... BUT NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT BEN YOKUM EVER DENIED ONE OF HIS CLIENTS THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE!



BEN, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

Funny...my first day in New York, my first visit to Lindy's... and there was I, little Wendy Mills of Water-ville face to face with love!

BEN, WHO IS THAT HANDSOME MAN? HE LOOKS AWFULLY FAMILIAR!

FAMILIAR SHE SAYS! OF COURSE, HE'S FAMILIAR! HE'S ONLY GOT TWO RADIO SHOWS, A TELEVISION SHOW, A SYNDICATED COLUMN AND MAYBE A MILLION BUCKS! THAT'S TED LANE!



OH! NOW LOOK, HONEY, YOU'RE A CUTE CHICK AND ALL THAT AND I KNOW HOW THE SIGHT OF THIS TED LANE CHARACTER AFFECTS THE FEMALE HEART... BUT DON'T GO GETTING ANY IDEAS!



WHY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BEN?

ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH! WHAT DO I MEAN? IN THE FIRST PLACE, I MEAN TED LANE WON'T EVEN NOTICE YOU! IN THE SECOND PLACE IF HE DID NOTICE YOU, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE DIDN'T!

BUT I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF SUCH A THING!

TED LANE SHOULD LIVE SO LONG YOU DIDN'T! LOOK... SO HE'S GLAMOROUS AND GORGEOUS BUT HE'S GOT MORE CHICKS ON THE STRING THAN YOU'VE GOT TEETH IN YOUR MOUTH! DON'T GIVE HIM A THOUGHT!



My heart sank! No, I couldn't fool Ben Yokum and I couldn't fool myself! I may not have recognized Ted Lane at first sight but I sure went for him at first sight!

BEN, YOU'RE SILLY! WHY WOULD I BE INTERESTED IN A GIRL LIKE HEDY LAMARR, WHO ALSO OWNED THE HOPE DIAMOND? THE QUESTIONS YOU ASK!

WHY WOULD I BE INTERESTED IN A GIRL LIKE HEDY LAMARR, WHO ALSO OWNED THE HOPE DIAMOND? THE QUESTIONS YOU ASK!



I made up my mind then and there to follow Ben's advice! The best way to get nowhere is to chase a rainbow!

NOW HERE'S SOMETHING THAT SENDS ME LIKE TED LANE NEVER COULD! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THIS HUNGARIAN GOULASH?

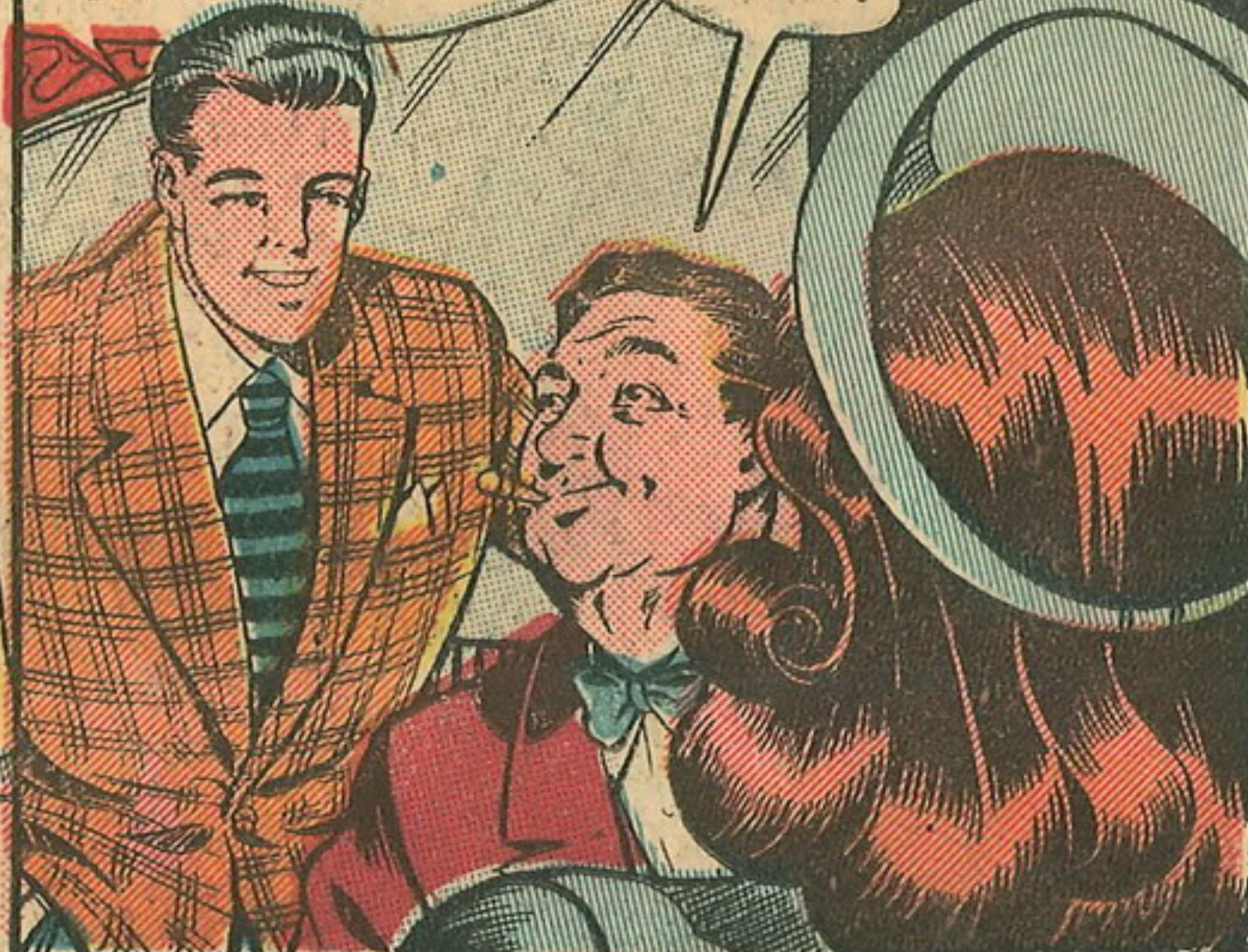
NEVER!



But the Fates have their own way of working things out and what might have seemed impossible to me and Ben Yokum was a mere detail in their hands!

BEN YOKUM, YOU HIGH-HATTED OLD FRAUD, YOU DIDN'T EVEN GIVE ME A TUMBLE!

GULP! I DIDN'T GIVE YOU A TUMBLE! NOW I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING!



BROADWAY ROMANCES



AND NO WONDER! YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE NOBODY MEETS THIS LOVELY LADY! KEEPING HER TO YOURSELF, EH, YOU OLD MEANIE!

THE LINE THIS GUY'S GOT! ALL RIGHT, HER NAME'S WENDY MILLS! NO NEED TO TELL HER YOURS! I'VE TOLD HER ALL ABOUT YOU!



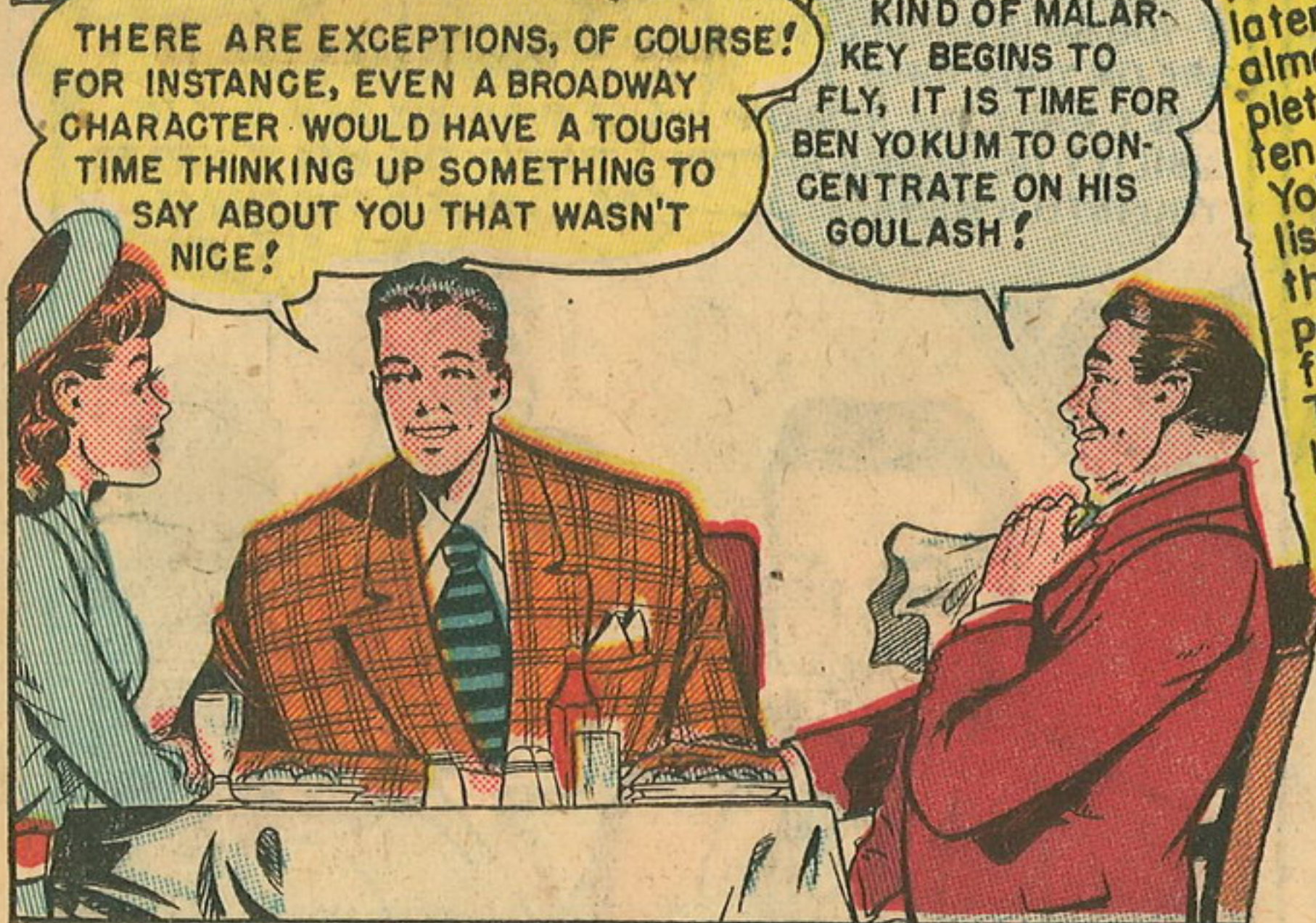
LIES, MISS MILLS, ALL LIES!

WHY, YOU'RE TAKING IT FOR GRANTED THAT HE DIDN'T SAY ANY NICE THINGS ABOUT YOU!



NATURALLY! ON BROADWAY NOBODY SAYS NICE THINGS ABOUT ANYBODY!

I MUST REMEMBER THESE THINGS!



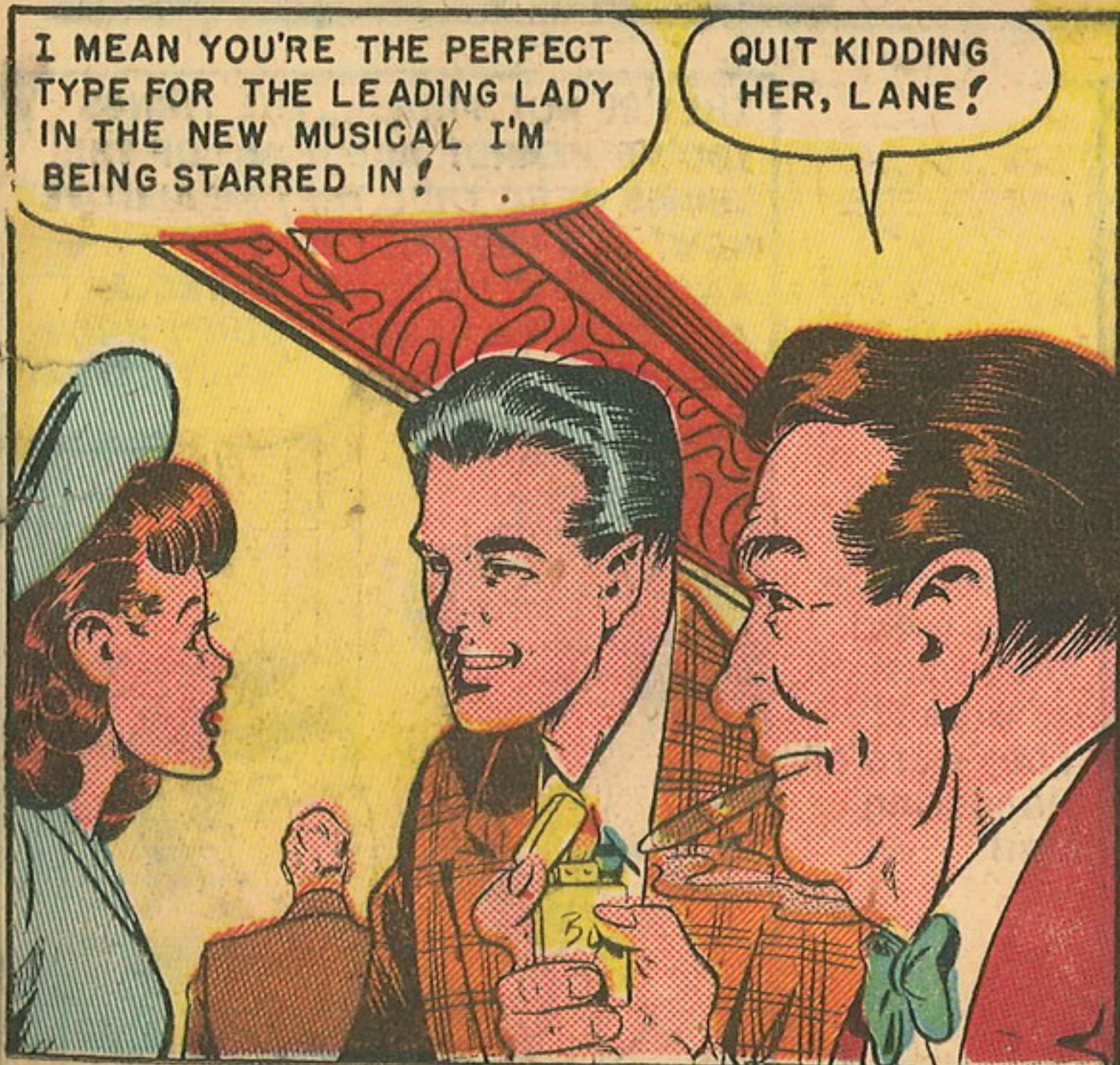
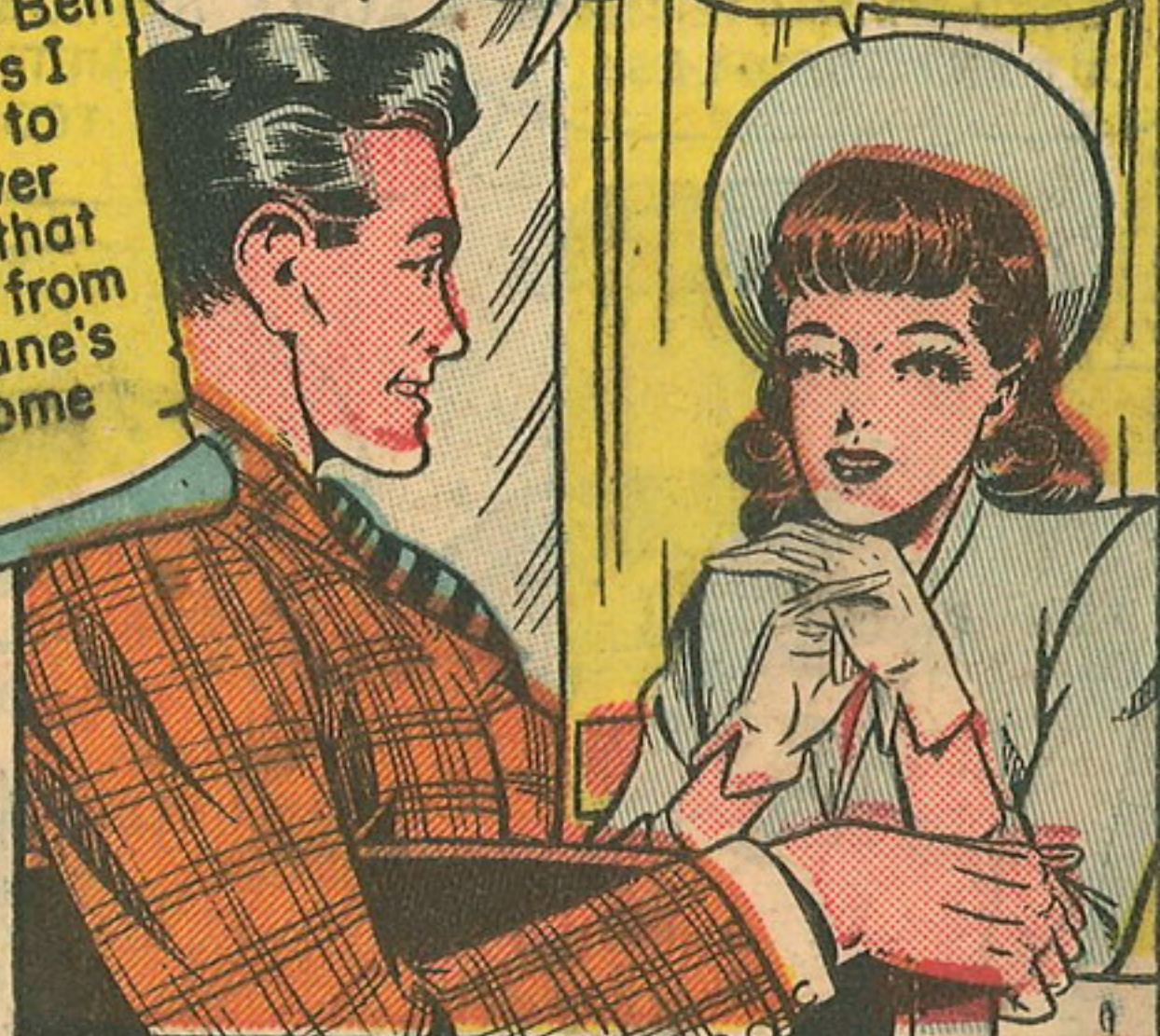
THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS, OF COURSE! FOR INSTANCE, EVEN A BROADWAY CHARACTER WOULD HAVE A TOUGH TIME THINKING UP SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT YOU THAT WASN'T NICE!

WHEN THIS KIND OF MALARKY BEGINS TO FLY, IT IS TIME FOR BEN YOKUM TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS GOULASH!

A few minutes later I had almost completely forgotten about Ben Yokum as I listened to the clever patter that flowed from Ted Lane's handsome lips!

SO YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE YOURSELF A REPUTATION ON BROADWAY! WELL THERE'S NOTHING LIKE STARTING AT THE TOP!

WH...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I MEAN YOU'RE THE PERFECT TYPE FOR THE LEADING LADY IN THE NEW MUSICAL I'M BEING STARRED IN!

QUIT KIDDING HER, LANE!



BUT I'M NOT KIDDING! THINGS HAPPEN THIS WAY SOMETIMES! YOU INTERVIEW FIVE HUNDRED GIRLS AND THEY'RE ALL WRONG! THEN YOU MEET ONE OVER SOME GOULASH AND SHE'S JUST THE GIRL!

OH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

BROADWAY ROMANCES



THIS IS ON THE LEVEL, WENDY! MEET ME AT TWO TOMORROW BACKSTAGE AT THE BIJOU AND SEE IF IT ISN'T!

GOSH!



SO LONG NOW! DON'T FORGET! TOMORROW AT TWO!

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY FORGET?



YOU CAN FORGET IF YOU TRY, WENDY, AND I SUGGEST YOU TRY HARD! THAT TED LANE'S POISON FOR YOU AND THE ONLY PERSON HE'S EVER TRIED TO DO ANY GOOD FOR IS TED LANE!

BUT HE SEEMED SO SINCERE, BEN! HE DIDN'T TRY TO MAKE A DATE OR ANYTHING! HE ASKED ME TO MEET HIM AT THEATER WHERE I PRESUME THEY ARE CASTING!



JUST A NEW APPROACH HE'S USING! I TELL YOU THE GUY'S A SELF-CENTERED CHARACTER WITHOUT ANY SCRUPLES!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT, BEN! I HAVE ENOUGH FAITH IN MY ABILITY TO JUDGE PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THERE'S SOMETHING FINE ABOUT TED LANE!



FINE, YET! LOOK, WENDY, IF YOU GO INTO THIS, YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN! I DON'T WANT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HAVING GOTTEN YOU INTO A MESS!

I'M SORRY, BEN, BUT IF THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE... THAT'S THE WAY IT SHALL BE!

I would rue it for not having listened to Ben's advice but at the time all I could think of was Ted Lane's smiling eyes, the tingle that went through me at the pressure of his hand! Next day I was at the Bijou Theater at the appointed hour!



BABY, YOU'RE HERE AT LAST! I'VE BEEN ON PINS AND NEEDLES!

YOU KNEW I'D COME, TED! YOU KNOW YOU'RE IRRESISTIBLE! EVERYBODY KNOWS IT!

I said that to test him and my heart leaped with joy as I saw the hurt look in his eyes! They must all be wrong! They were all slandering him!



THEY'RE NOT TRUE... THE THINGS YOU'VE HEARD! AND IF ANY OF THE THINGS WERE TRUE, THEY'RE ALL OVER NOW! IT'S YOU ALL THE WAY, WENDY! I WAS UP ALL NIGHT THINKING ABOUT YOU!

TED, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

BROADWAY ROMANCES



DON'T SAY ANYTHING! COME AND MEET THE PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR OF THE SHOW!



HERE SHE IS, BOYS... THE GIRL I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT! MEET WENDY MILLS! I'VE GOTTEN THE LOW DOWN FROM THE VARIETY PEOPLE ON HER RADIO WORK AND THEY SAY SHE WAS TERRIFIC!

HMM!



AND YOU CAN SEE THE FACE AND FIGURE! SOMETHING, EH?

SING SOMETHING FOR US, MISS MILLS.

Even as I went into the song, I knew from the expressions on their faces that the part in the show was mine! Something about the behavior of the producer and director told me that while they might put on a display of independence they would not cross Ted Lane, their star!



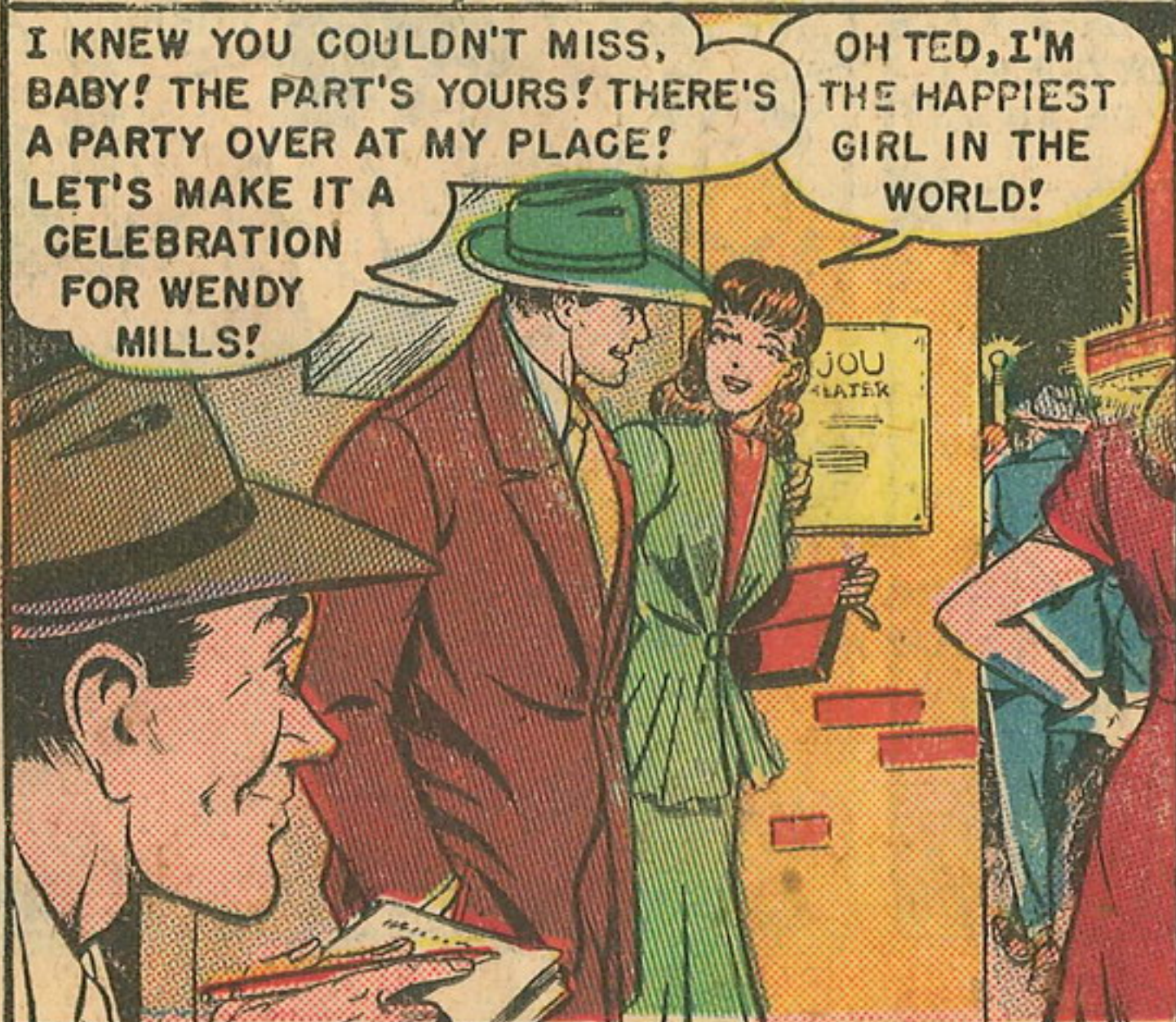
WILL YOU LOVE ME



YOU WERE WONDERFUL, MISS MILLS!

I'LL GIVE YOU THE SCORE OF THE SHOW AND YOU CAN RUN THROUGH SOME OF THE NUMBERS! IF YOU CAN'T PUT THOSE OVER, I DON'T KNOW SHOW BUSINESS!

The rest of the afternoon was a series of triumphs! They liked everything I did! Then at the end of the day...



I KNEW YOU COULDN'T MISS, BABY! THE PART'S YOURS! THERE'S A PARTY OVER AT MY PLACE! LET'S MAKE IT A CELEBRATION FOR WENDY MILLS!

OH TED, I'M THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD!

At Ted Lane's penthouse apartment, I was dazzled by the crowd of sleek, glittering, sophisticated guests!



KIDS, MEET TOMORROW'S BIGGEST NAME... WENDY MILLS! WENDY'S GOING TO PLAY OPPOSITE ME IN MY NEW SHOW!

NICE GOING, WENDY! WHAT VOODOO CHARM DID YOU USE ON TED?



WENDY DIDN'T NEED A VOODOO CHARM, MEG! BEAUTY, BRAINS AND TALENT WORK MUCH BETTER!

GOLLY, I COULD SWEAR THE MAN'S ACTUALLY SMITTEN!



COME OUT HERE AND LOOK AT THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OVER MANHATTAN, WENDY! IN A FEW WEEKS THE LIGHTS IN YOUR NAME ON THE BIJOU MARQUEE'LL BE ADDING TO THE GLOW!

TED... IT'S ALL SO... SO SCRUMPTIOUS!



IT'S NOT HALF GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, WENDY! NOTHING'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE GIRL I LOVE... THE WAY I LOVE YOU!

TED, DARLING!



For the next few moments I floated on a cloud of delight as Ted's arms held me close and I felt his lips on mine! Then I heard the sound of a voice behind us...and I fell from the heights with a thud!



VERY TOUCHING! SO THIS IS THE LASS WHO SOFTENED UP THE MIGHTY TED LANE!

CHERYL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



I JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP IN FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE! MEG TOLD ME YOU WERE OUT HERE! YOU SEE, WENDY MILLS, I'M CHERYL COWAN. TED LANE'S MOST RECENT CAST-OFF!

NOW, CHERYL...



OH DON'T WORRY, TED! I'M NOT GOING TO WARN HER AGAINST YOU! I'M GOING TO WARN YOU AGAINST HER! SINCE WHEN HAS THE SWEET YOUNG INNOCENT ACT AFFECTED YOU TO THE EXTENT WHERE YOU'RE WILLING TO GIVE AWAY SOME OF YOUR LIMELIGHT?

SHUT UP, CHERYL! WENDY DOESN'T PUT ON AN ACT!



HA! HA! I CAN SEE THERE'S NO POINT IN WARNING A FOOL IN LOVE! BUT DON'T BE SURPRISED IF SHE HOGS MORE THAN THE LIMELIGHT YOU'RE WILLING TO GIVE HER!

OH, HOW HORRID!

BROADWAY ROMANCES



DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, HONEY! THAT'S JUST A BROADWAY BABE IN ACTION... ALL VENOM AND NO KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLE'S HEARTS!

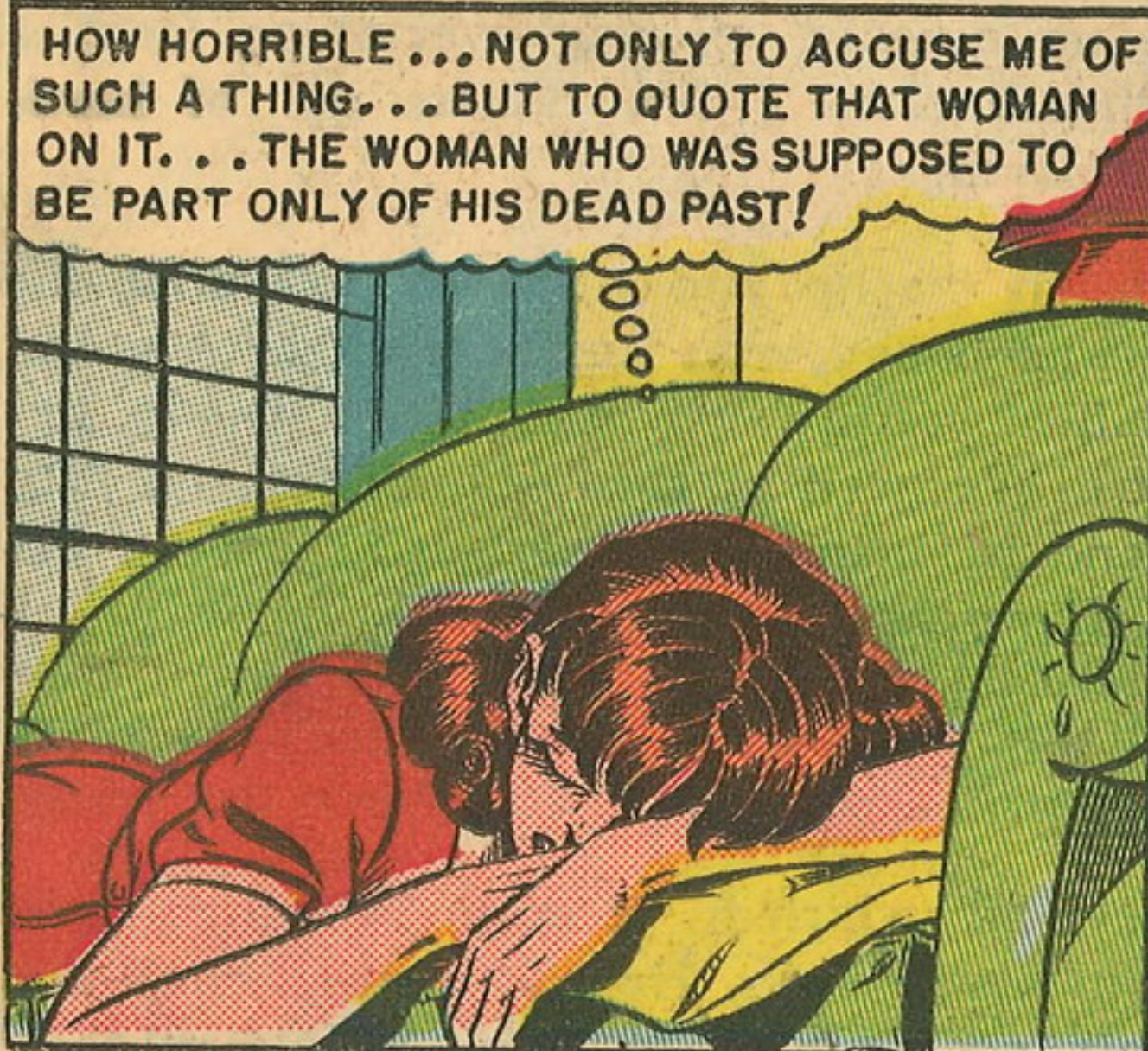
In the weeks that followed, the prospect of success, the grind of rehearsals and the security I felt in Ted's love eradicated all memory of that unpleasant episode! Then came the opening night of the show...



But next morning I came crashing down to earth...



My world seemed at an end as I heard Ted storm out the door!



And then as the first storm of emotion subsided, I lay there thinking! Was this what I wanted... this success that was tinged with heartache? If I did, I could have it regardless of Ted! Or did I want only the love that had led me to this stardom... the haven I could find only in Ted's arms!

IT'S ONLY TED WHO COUNTS! IF I LOSE HIM I'LL HAVE NOTHING! I MUSTN'T BLAME HIM FOR WHAT HE JUST SAID! EVERY ACTOR THRIVES ONLY ON THE NOURISHMENT OF HIS OWN EGO! I'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT!



I hurried to Ted's apartment...



Ted and I were married after the show had run a year... and we got Ben Yokum to be Ted's best man...

THAT'S BROADWAY FOR YOU... WHERE EVERYBODY'S PREDICTIONS CAN GO WRONG AND USUALLY DO! BUT, OH HOW I LOVE THAT GREAT WHITE WAY!



DARK ANGEL

NORA came through the backstage door five minutes before rehearsal time, hurrying, her lovely face pink with the cold that had descended upon Broadway. Johnny Wingate was just wheeling the small practise piano out onto the barren stage. He turned quickly and his dark, handsome face lit up in a smile. He hurried across to her.

"You look lovely, Nora," he said softly. "I lie awake at night trying to make myself believe you're as beautiful as my heart tells me you are. And then I see you in the morning and find I was wrong. You're more beautiful."

"You should be writing poetry," Nora dimpled, "instead of shifting scenery. Why are you a stage hand, Johnny?"

"Would I have met you if I were anything else?" he asked. He took her cold hands and she came into his arms, naturally and willingly, her expensive fur coat crushing against his overalls. "I can't believe it's true, dearest. I still can't believe it."

"Why not?" Nora asked. "This is America, Johnny. Does the luck that made me a musical comedy star make me any better than the luck that had you shifting scenery instead of selling bonds or living in a mansion? It's you I've fallen in love with, Johnny—not your job or your clothes."

Their lips met in a long, sweet kiss that broke only when a dressing room door opened. It was Johnny who stepped hastily back. Gloria Daren came out in her practise clothes, waved gaily and went on across the stage. Other members of the cast began to drift in. Sammy Dakin ran chubby fingers over the piano keys. Some chorus girl rattled a swift tap break that echoed through the dark, empty theatre. The outer door opened and Ken Murdock, the producer of the show, came in. He looked gloomy and downcast and barely grunted at them in passing.

"I'll see you after rehearsal," Nora said and left Johnny there in the entry, his face radiant, his eyes dazed with disbelief. He would never, it seemed to Nora, get over the fact that a star could fall in love with a stagehand. But it had happened.

Nora went across the stage to the group. Instead of barking them into line for rehearsal, Ken was facing them sombrely. "I'm afraid it's all off, kids. Mark Hamilton was angeling this show, you know, putting up the money for our opening. Last night Mark was taken to a hospital with a severe stroke. Until he's out of danger, there'll be no money. We'll have to postpone the opening. Maybe give it all up. I've tried all morning to raise money but it's no use. We're licked."

"I've saved some, Ken," Nora said quickly. "I can let you have ten thousand." Other voices spoke up quickly, offering everything from a few thousand to a few dollars out of hard-earned savings.

Ken bit his lip and when he answered, his voice was husky with emotion. "You're grand kids, all of you. I . . . I wish it would help, but it won't. We need at least a hundred and fifty thousand to open. Anything less is useless. I'm sorry. If we had an angel . . ."

"I'll put a hundred and fifty thousand into your show," a soft voice said from the wings.

They all whirled. Johnny Wingate stood there in his overalls. He had a checkbook and fountain pen in his hands. He smiled at their stares. "Oh, I have it, all right. Ken, you must know the Wingate fortune. I'm Jonathan Albert Wingate, sole heir."

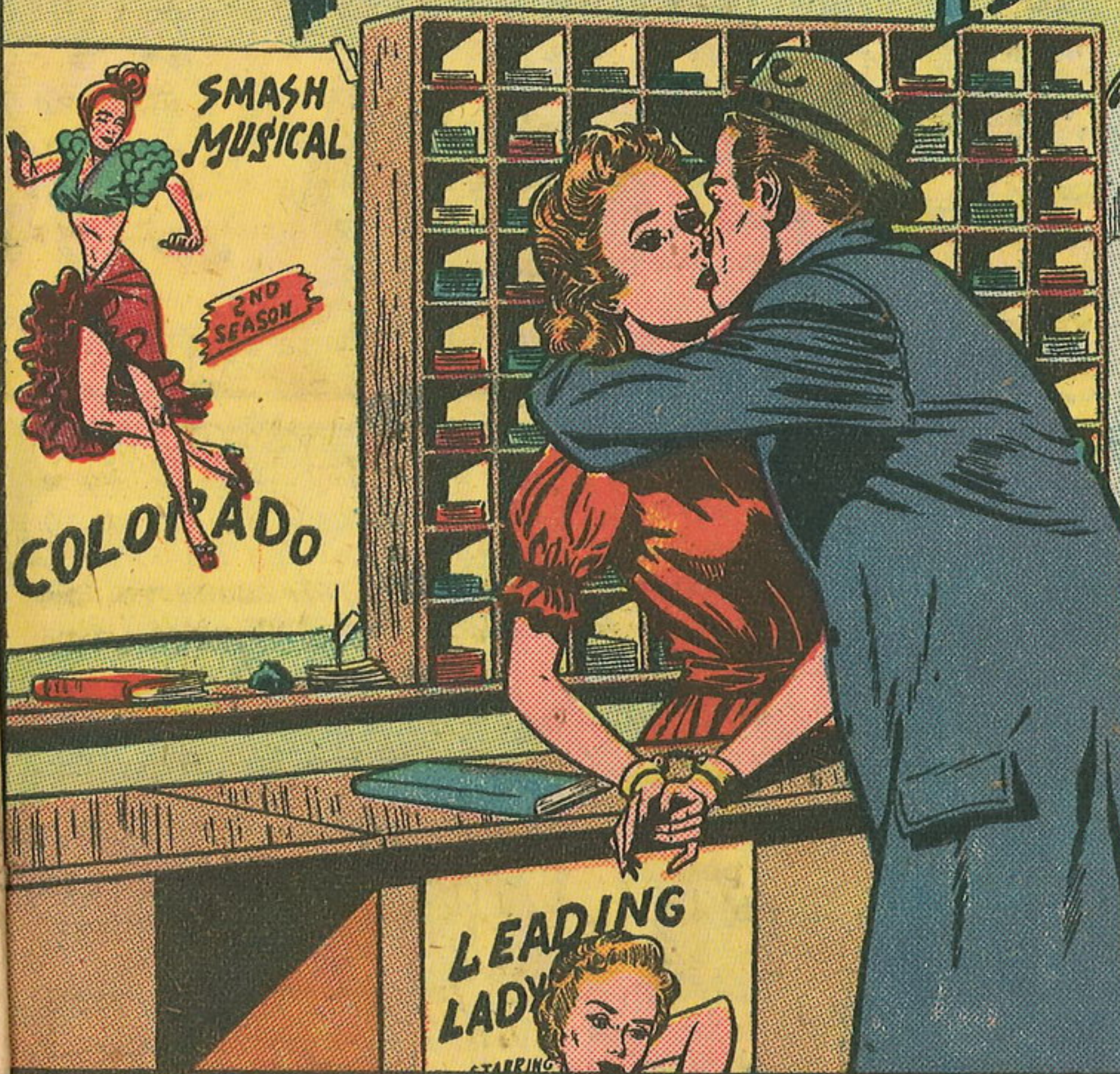
There was bedlam for a time. When the shouting died down, Ken was facing Johnny Wingate. "But . . . but, what on earth were you doing as a stagehand, then?"

Johnny smiled. "A man in love does strange things, Ken. I was in love with a girl I'd never met so I took the only way I could find to meet her and find out if she was as wonderful as my heart told me. Believe me, she was even finer, Ken."

He turned then and put his arm around Nora and smiled into the wet blue of her eyes. "In this case, it was a gamble that paid out. I guess with my kind of luck, I'll find myself backing another hit show. Got a contract, handy, Ken? Or a preacher?"

♥ THIEF of HEARTS ♥

SMASH
MUSICAL
2ND
SEASON
COLORADO



THEY SAY THERE ARE NO TRUE NEW YORKERS! IT'S A LIE! I WAS BORN IN THE SHADOW OF TIMES SQUARE AND WHEN MY DAD DIED, I TOOK OVER HIS TICKET AGENCY! TOUGH AND WISE-CRACKING AND SMARTED UP ON ALL GRABS... UNTIL A BIG, DUMB CITY DETECTIVE CAME ALONG AND TAUGHT ME THE ONE STEAL I'D OVERLOOKED ... THE THEFT OF MY HEART BY A GUY I HAD BEEN RAISED TO HATE!

I GUESS I INHERITED A DISLIKE OF COPS FROM MY DAD, WHO WAS IRISH AND INDEPENDENT! ONE OF MY EARLY MEMORIES...

A FLATFOOT, ARE YEZ! WELL, MIKE KELLY RUNS AN HONEST THEATRE TICKET AGENCY AND I'LL HAVE NO OFFICIAL SNOOP-ING! GET OUT!

OKAY, OKAY! NOBODY SAID YOU WERE SCALP-ING TICKETS, MIKE KELLY! BUT I HAVE TO DO MY ROUNDS LIKE I'M ORDERED!

BLASTED, FLATFOOTED SNOOPERS! LET THEM SPEND THEIR TIME CHASING CROOKS, NOT HECKLING HONEST TICKET BROKERS!

ATTABOY, POP! THEY WON'T PESTER YOU FOR A WHILE, I'LL BET!



AFTER POP DIED AND I TOOK OVER THE TICKET AGENCY, I DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME STATING MY PERSONAL STAND ON COPS!

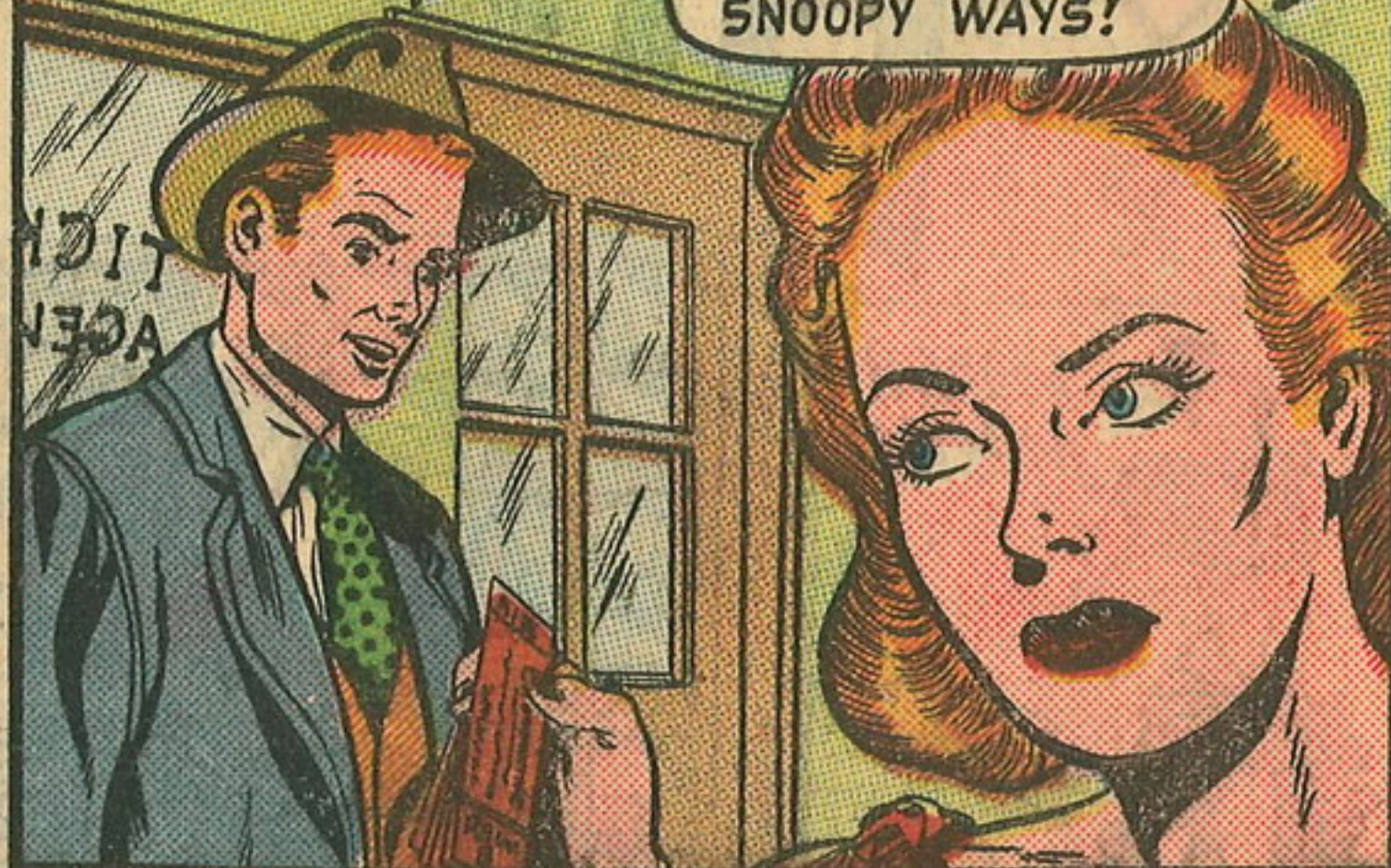
YOU HEARD ME, BILL BOYLAN! I CAN RUN MY OWN BUSINESS WITHOUT ANY BRASS BUTTONS BOTHERING ME! GO PINCH A WATERMELON!

OKAY, MARCIA, BUT I'LL BE DROPPING IN AGAIN WHEN I'M IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! I'M A DETECTIVE FIRST GRADE, NOW!



CALLING ON YOU IS PLEASURE, NOT DUTY! I LIVE FOR THE DAY YOU'LL GREET ME WITH ONE OF THOSE RARE, BEAUTIFUL SMILES!

GO PEDDLE YOUR BLARNEY SOMEWHERE ELSE, YOU FLATFOOTED APE! I WANT NO PART OF YOUR SMOOTH TALK AND SNOOPY WAYS!



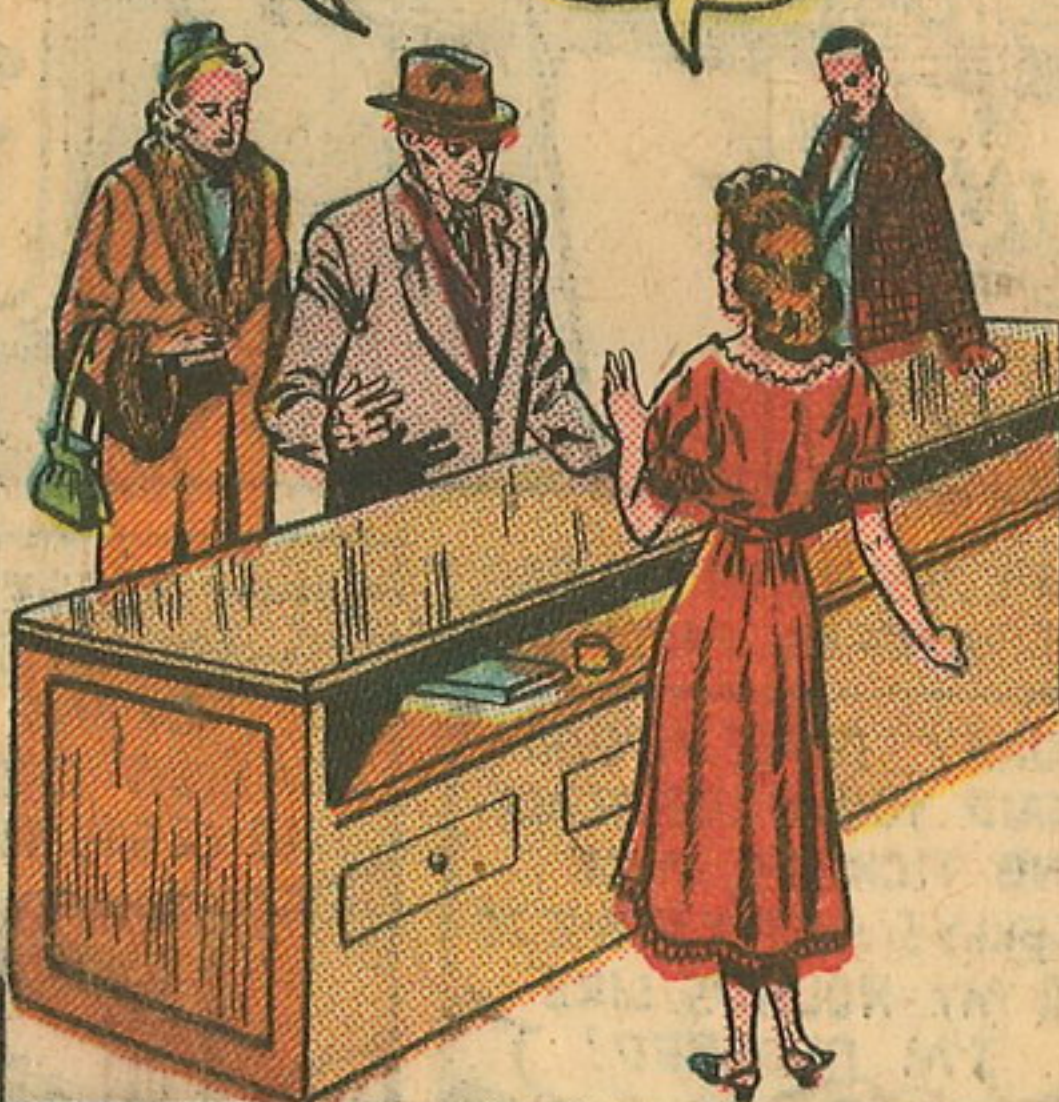
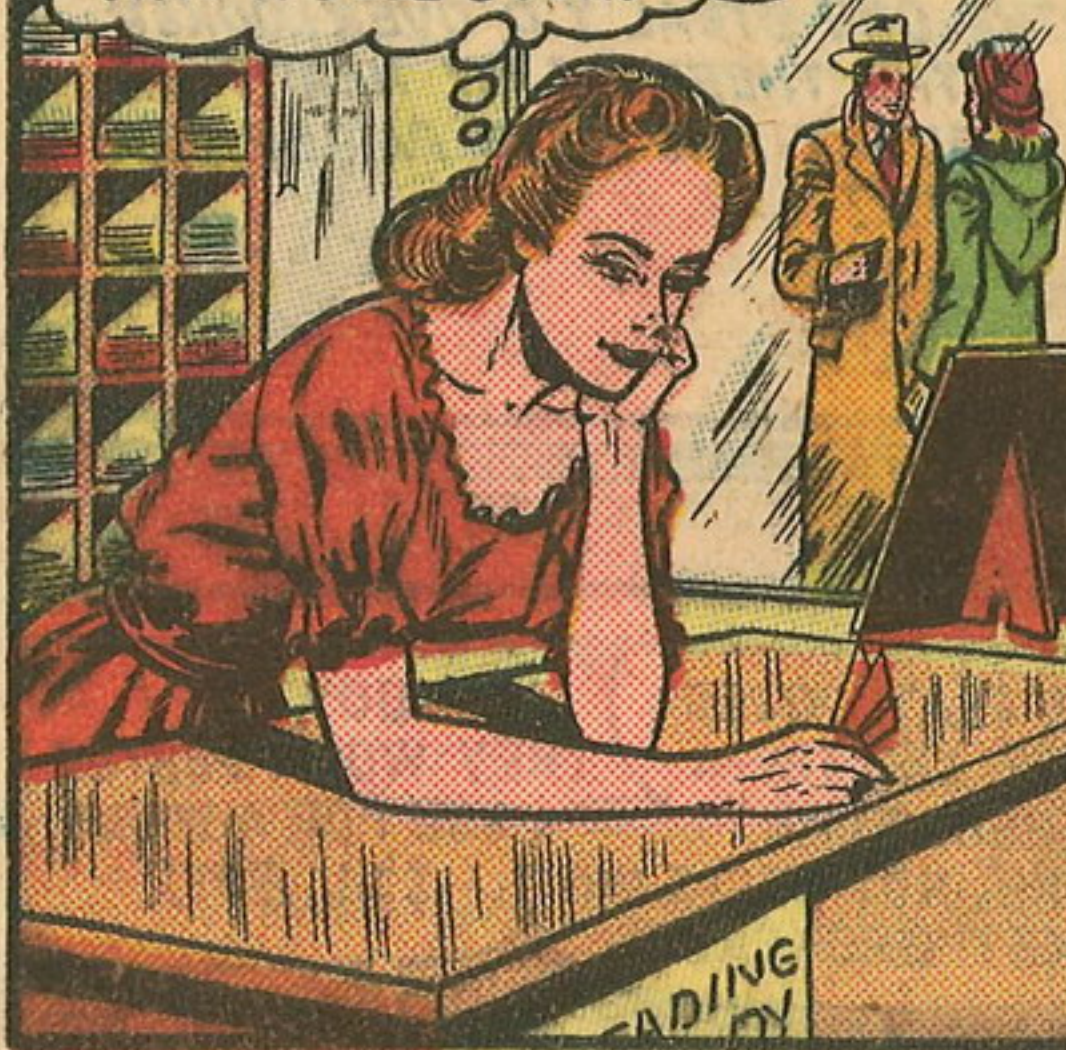
IT WAS MOSTLY BLUSTER! IN MY HEART, I WAS GLAD TO SEE BILL'S BIG, GRINNING FACE... BUT NO DAUGHTER OF MIKE KELLY'S WOULD DARE ADMIT IT!

THE DEMAND FOR TICKETS TO HIT SHOWS GAVE HONEST TICKET BROKERS A HEADACHE!

TWO ON THE AISLE FOR "LEADING LADY", PLEASE!

WHO ARE YOU KIDDING, BUSTER? THAT SHOW'S BEEN SOLD OUT FOR TWO MONTHS! I HAVEN'T EVEN A THIRD BALCONY REAR!

NOW IF THE BIG BUM WOULD GET AN HONEST JOB AND COME HONEYING AROUND, I MIGHT NOT BE SPENDING MY NIGHTS WITH A DULL BOOK!



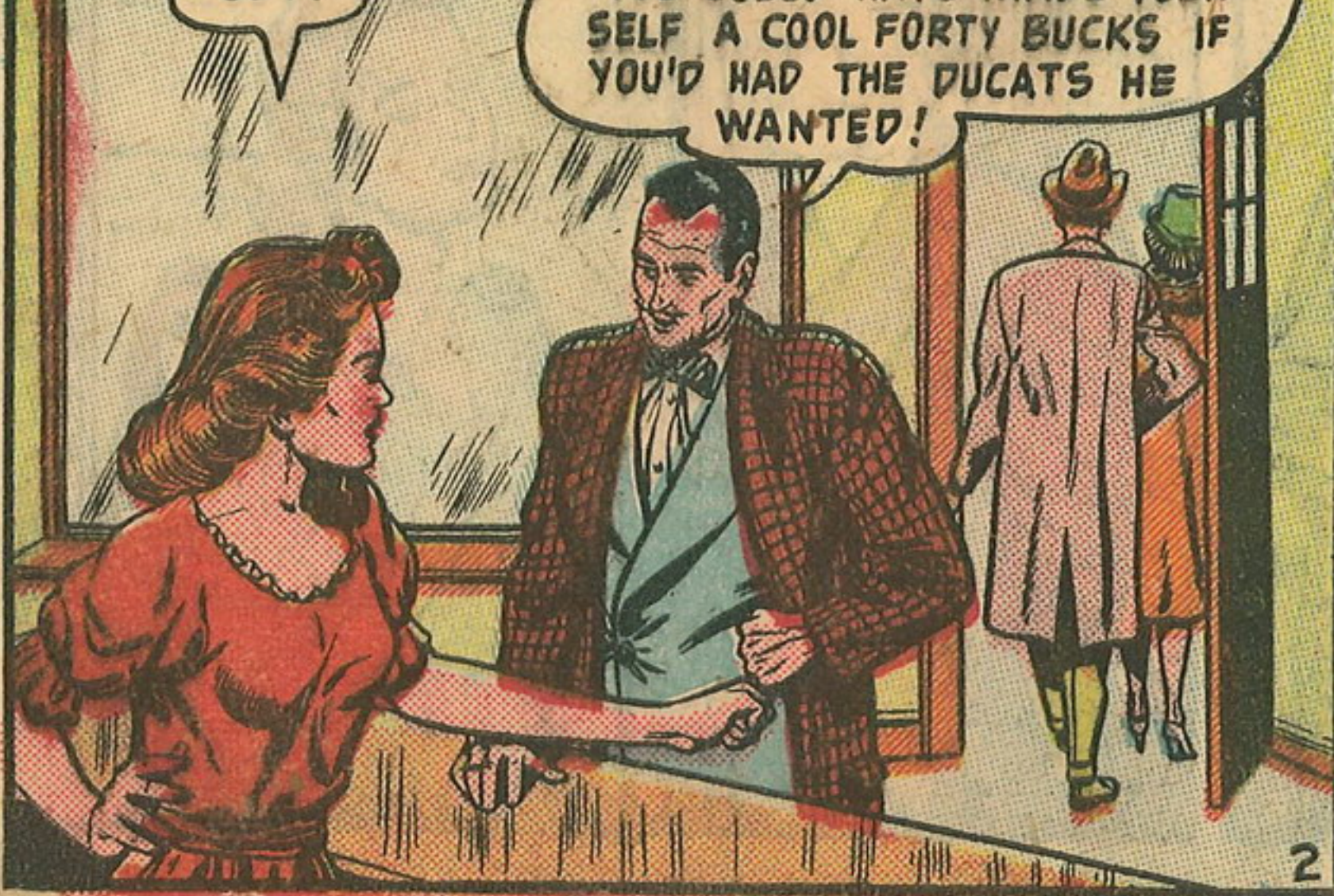
LET'S NOT BE COY, SISTER! I KNOW THOSE TICKETS CAN BE HAD FOR A PRICE! I'VE GOT THE MONEY!

AND I'VE GOT A TICKET PUNCH JUST ITCHING TO BE WRAPPED AROUND YOUR BIG MOUTH! GET OUT BEFORE I FORGET I'M A LADY!



SMART APPLE! IF HE'D PROPOSITIONED MY POP THAT WAY, THEY'D HAVE HAD TO CARRY HIM OUT!

IT'S TOUGH, HONEY! YOU COULD HAVE MADE YOURSELF A COOL FORTY BUCKS IF YOU'D HAD THE DUCATS HE WANTED!



IT HAPPENS I'VE GOT A PAL IN THE BOX OFFICE! HE GAVE ME A HUNDRED OF THE BEST \$6.60 SEATS! YOU CAN HAVE THEM FOR \$20 APIECE AND RESELL THEM FOR \$40!

OH, I CAN, CAN I...?



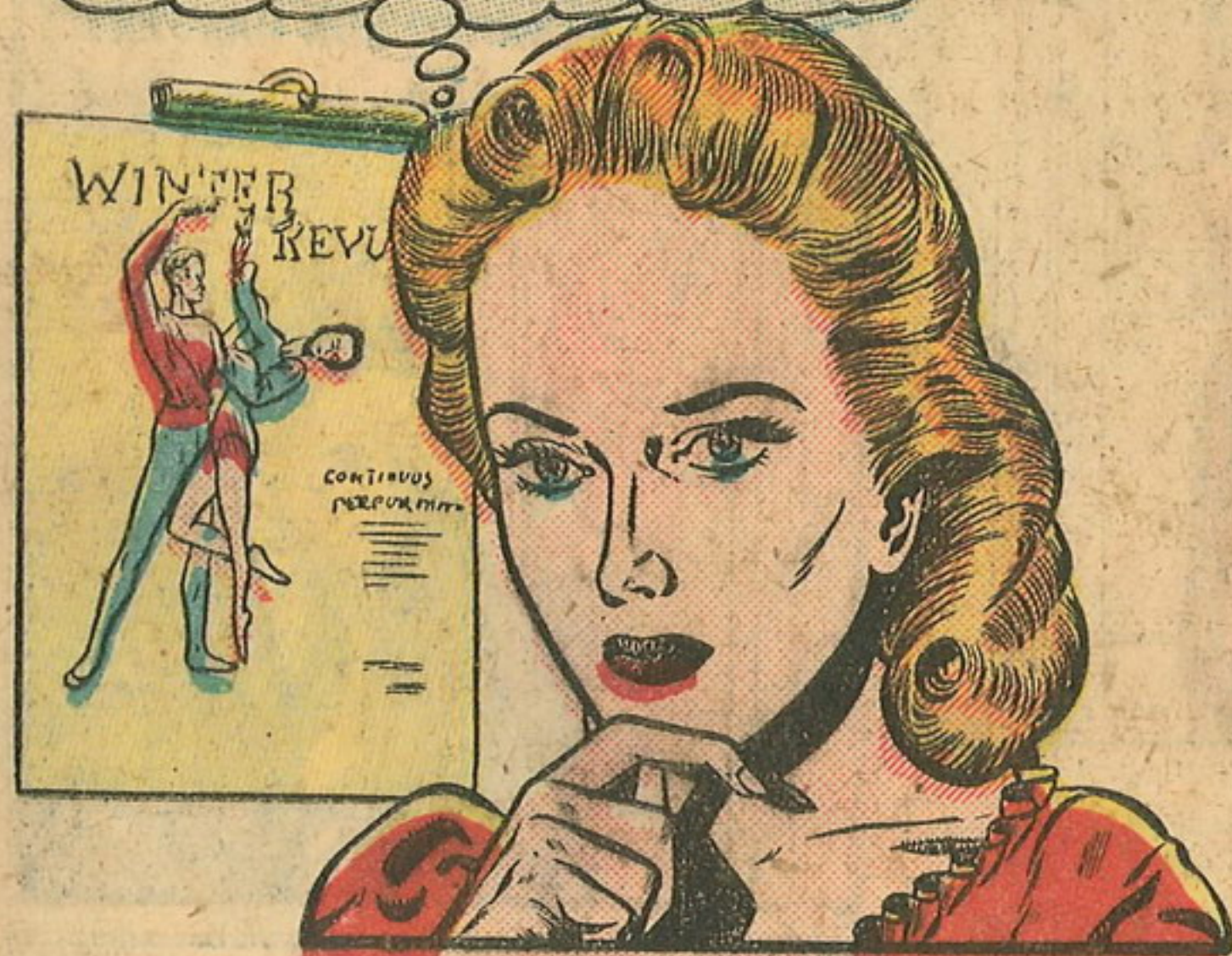
BROADWAY ROMANCES



I'D NEVER BEEN KISSED LIKE THAT BEFORE! I WAS DAZED MORE THAN OUTRAGED, STIRRED BY AN UNFAMILIAR, UNWANTED YEARNING!



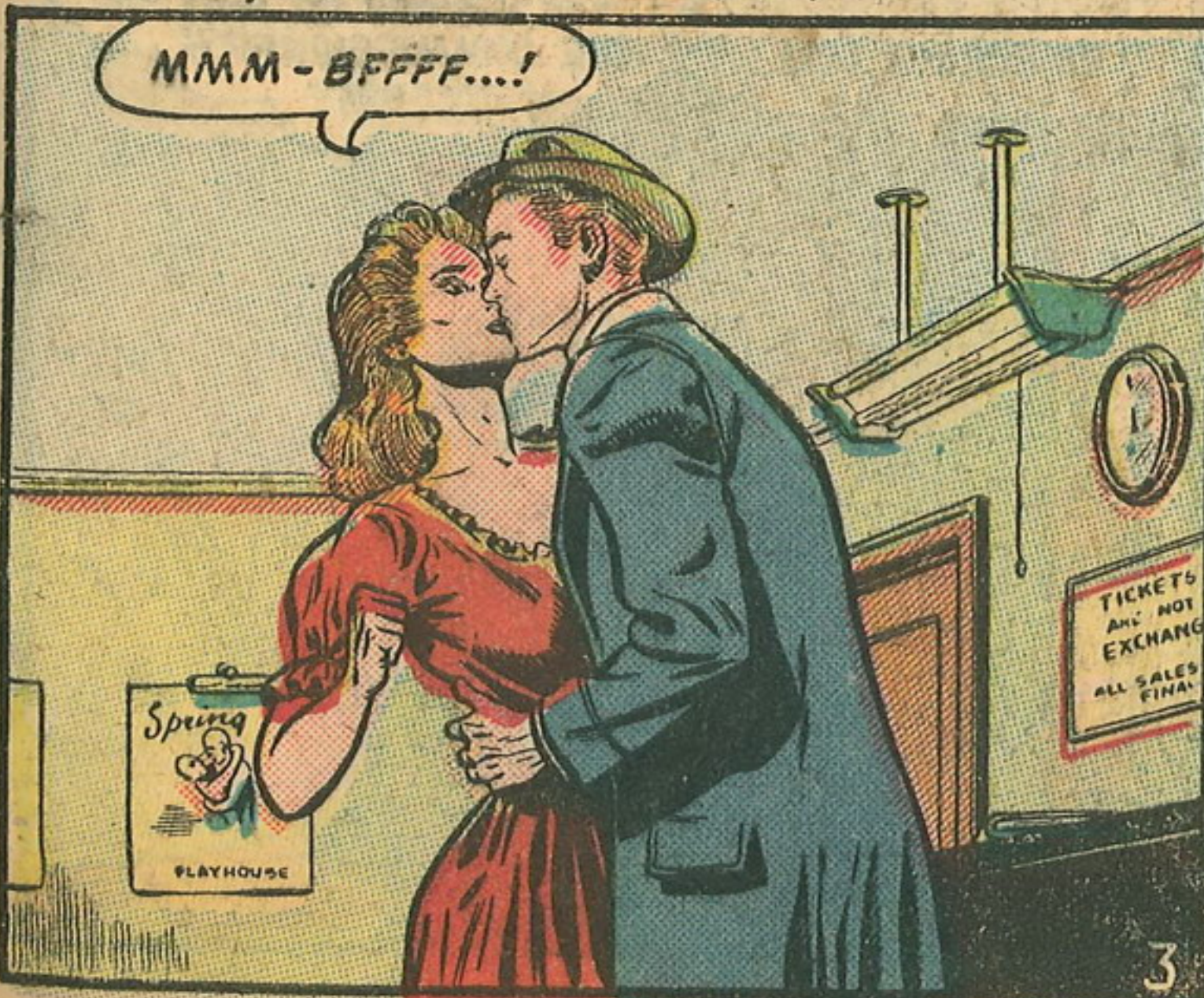
HAVE I GOT HOLES IN MY HEAD? I NOT ONLY LET THAT SLUG KISS ME AND LEAVE ME UNDER HIS OWN POWER... BUT I CAN'T CONVINCE MYSELF I DIDN'T LIKE IT!



AND THAT WAS THE FINE, FURIOUS, MIXED-UP-MOOD I WAS IN WHEN BILL BOYLAN WALKED IN A LITTLE LATER!



BEFORE I COULD DRAW TWO BREATHS, IT WAS HAPPENING TO ME AGAIN! AND IT WAS EVEN NICER THIS TIME, THOUGH I'D NOT ADMIT IT!



IT WAS NOT THE KISS BUT THE UNEXPECTEDNESS OF IT THAT MADE ME SO FURIOUS!

TAKE YOUR PAWS OFF ME, YOU BRASS-BOUND GORILLA! WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?

IT'S A QUESTION I WAS TRYING TO ANSWER AND I'M NOT LIKING WHAT I GOT!



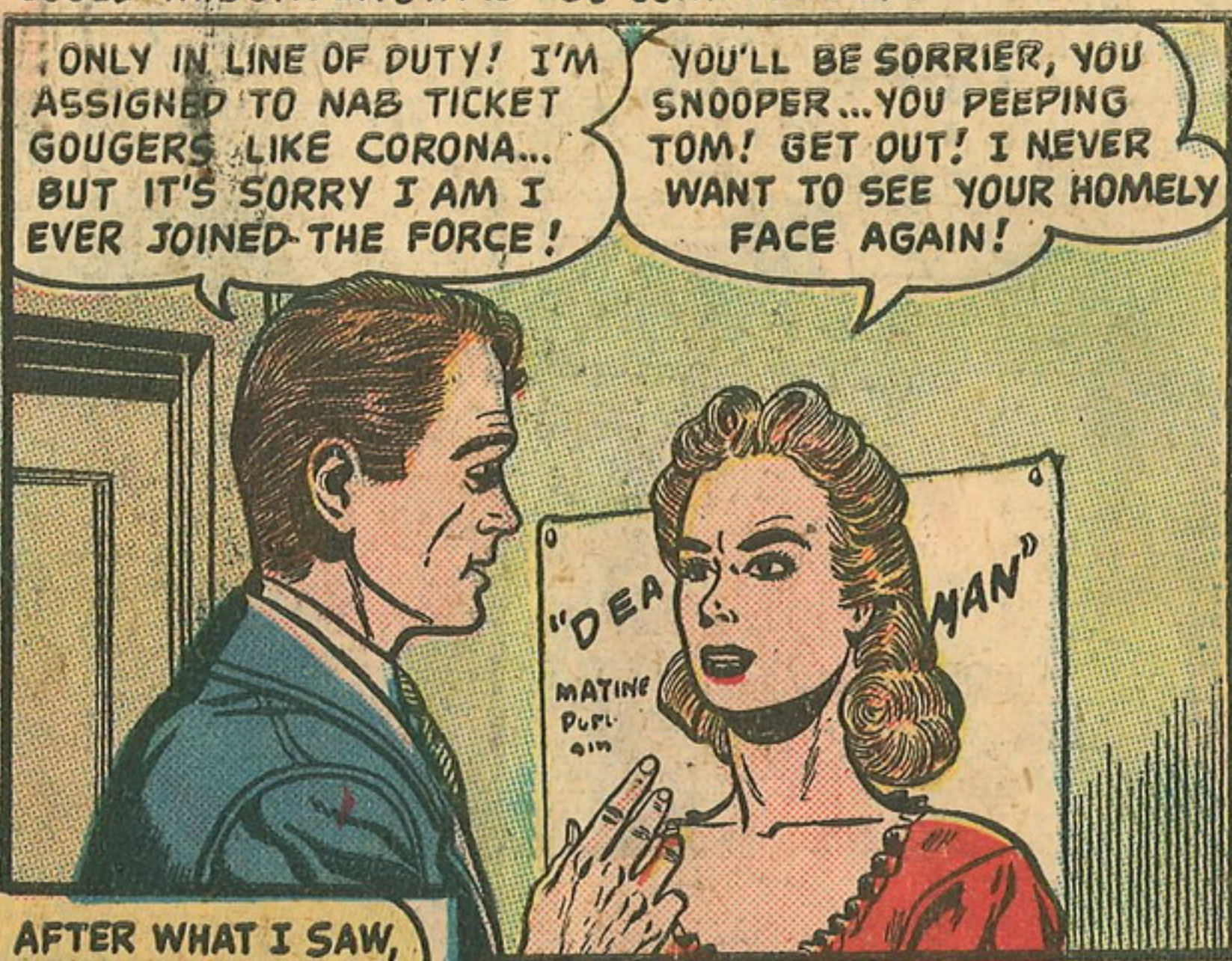
BROADWAY ROMANCES



THAT, STEVE CORONA KISSES YOU AND NEVER A HAND DO YOU RAISE! I KISS YOU AND GET BELTED LOOSE FROM MY TEETH! NOW I KNOW WHERE I STAND!

YOU... YOU WERE SPYING ON ME?

I WAS IN A FINE, WILD FURY THAT ONE BIG, DUMB MAN COULD MISUNDERSTAND SO COMPLETELY!



ONLY IN LINE OF DUTY! I'M ASSIGNED TO NAB TICKET GOUGERS LIKE CORONA... BUT IT'S SORRY I AM I EVER JOINED THE FORCE!

YOU'LL BE SORRIER, YOU SNOOPER... YOU PEEPIING TOM! GET OUT! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR HOMELY FACE AGAIN!



YOU'LL HAVE TO! I HEARD STEVE CORONA SAY HE'D BE BACK... AND MY ORDERS ARE TO SIT RIGHT HERE UNTIL HE DOES! IT'S NOT MY CHOICE!

NOR MINE, I CAN TELL YOU! AND IF YOU THINK I'LL ENTERTAIN YOU WITH TALK WHILE YOU LOAF ON TAX-PAYER'S MONEY...!

DON'T WORRY! AFTER WHAT I SAW, I'M IN NO MOOD FOR TALK! AND ME THINKING YOU WERE A COLLEEN TO BE WARMED AT THE FIRE OF HONEST LOVE!



YOU... YOU... I HATE YOU!

SO THE DAY WENT BY WITH THE BIG OX GLOWING FROM MY BACK ROOM AND NEVER A WORD PASSING BETWEEN US!

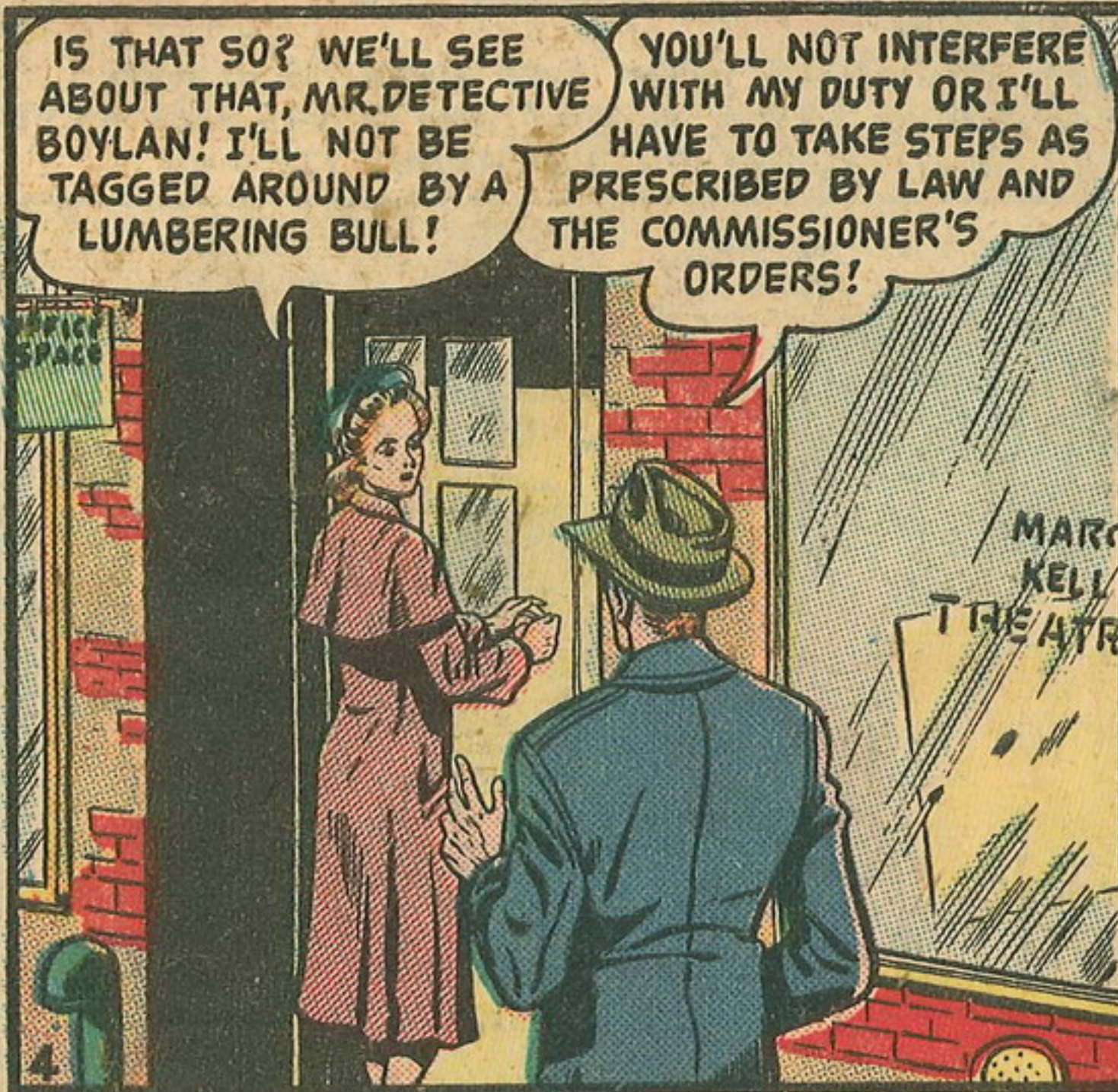


SO HE THINKS I'M THE KIND OF GIRL WHO ENJOYS BEING MAULED BY SHARPIES AND HOT-SHOTS! I WISH I'D SLAPPED HIM HARDER!



IT'S FIVE THIRTY AND I'M LOCKING UP FOR THE NIGHT! WILL YOU KINDLY GET LOST SO I CAN TRY TO ENJOY MY DINNER IN PEACE?

NOTHING WOULD GIVE ME MORE PLEASURE... BUT I HAVE MY ORDERS! I'LL NOT LET YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT UNTIL YOUR BEDTIME!

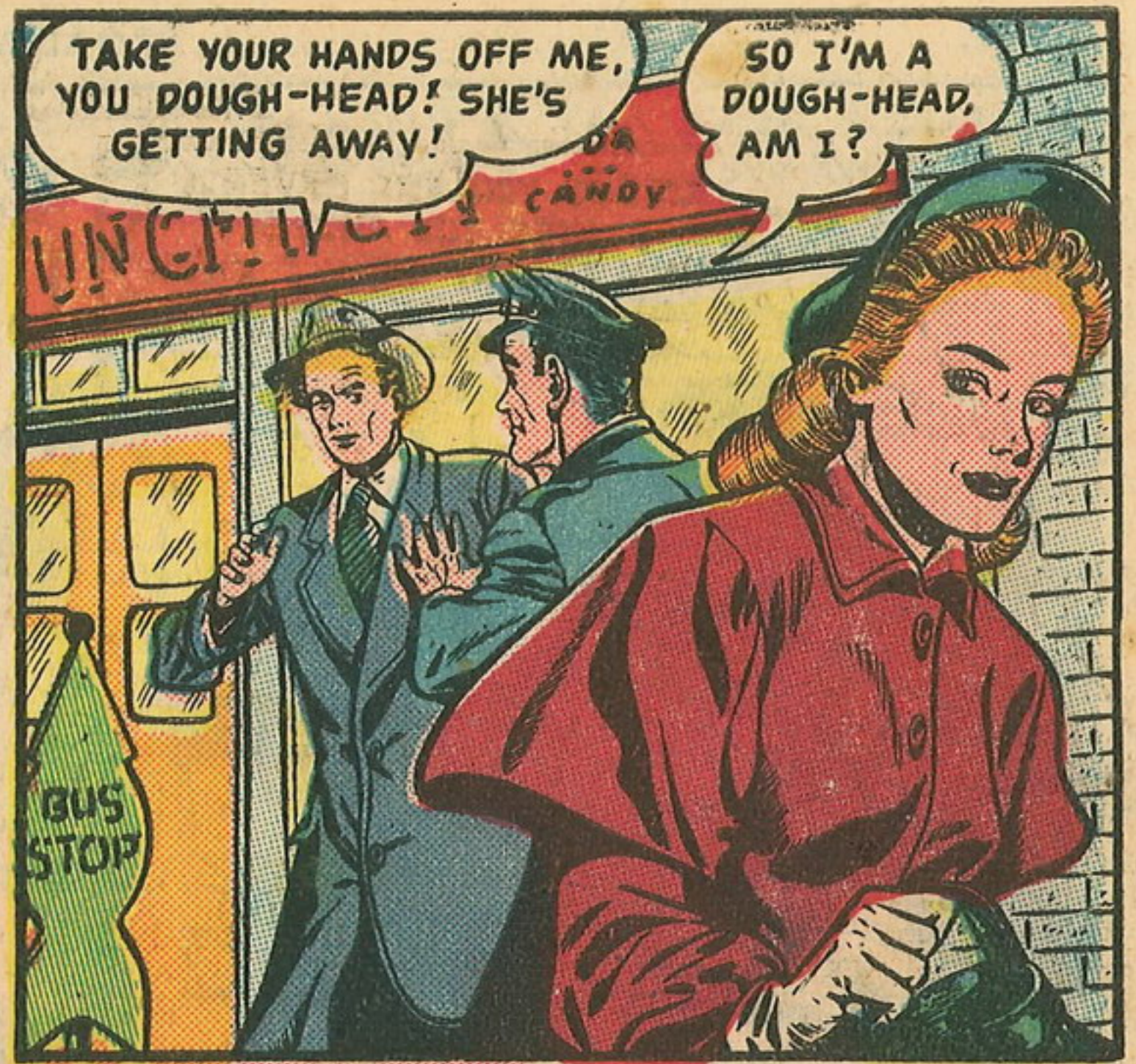


IS THAT SO? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, MR. DETECTIVE BOYLAN! I'LL NOT BE TAGGED AROUND BY A LUMBERING BULL!

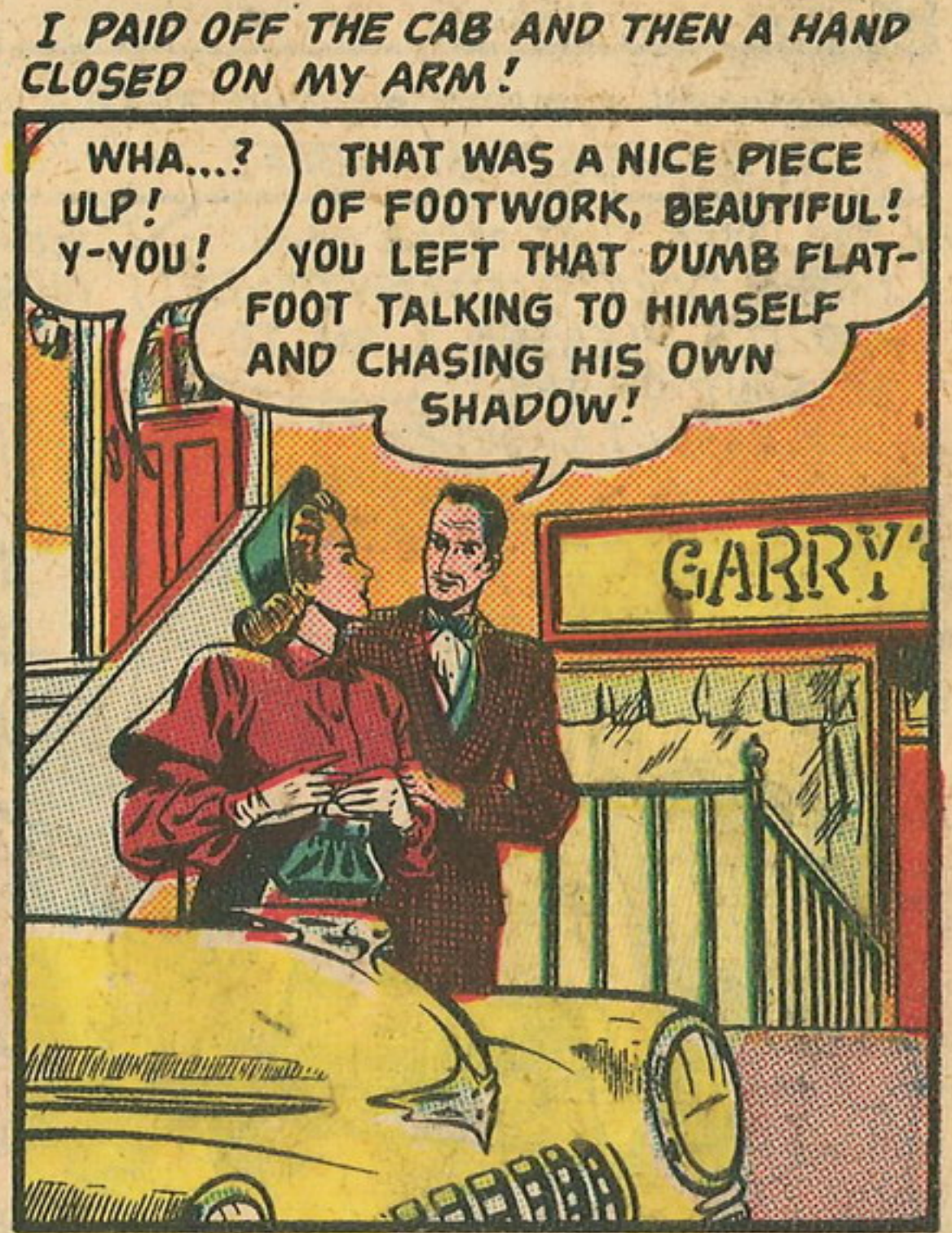
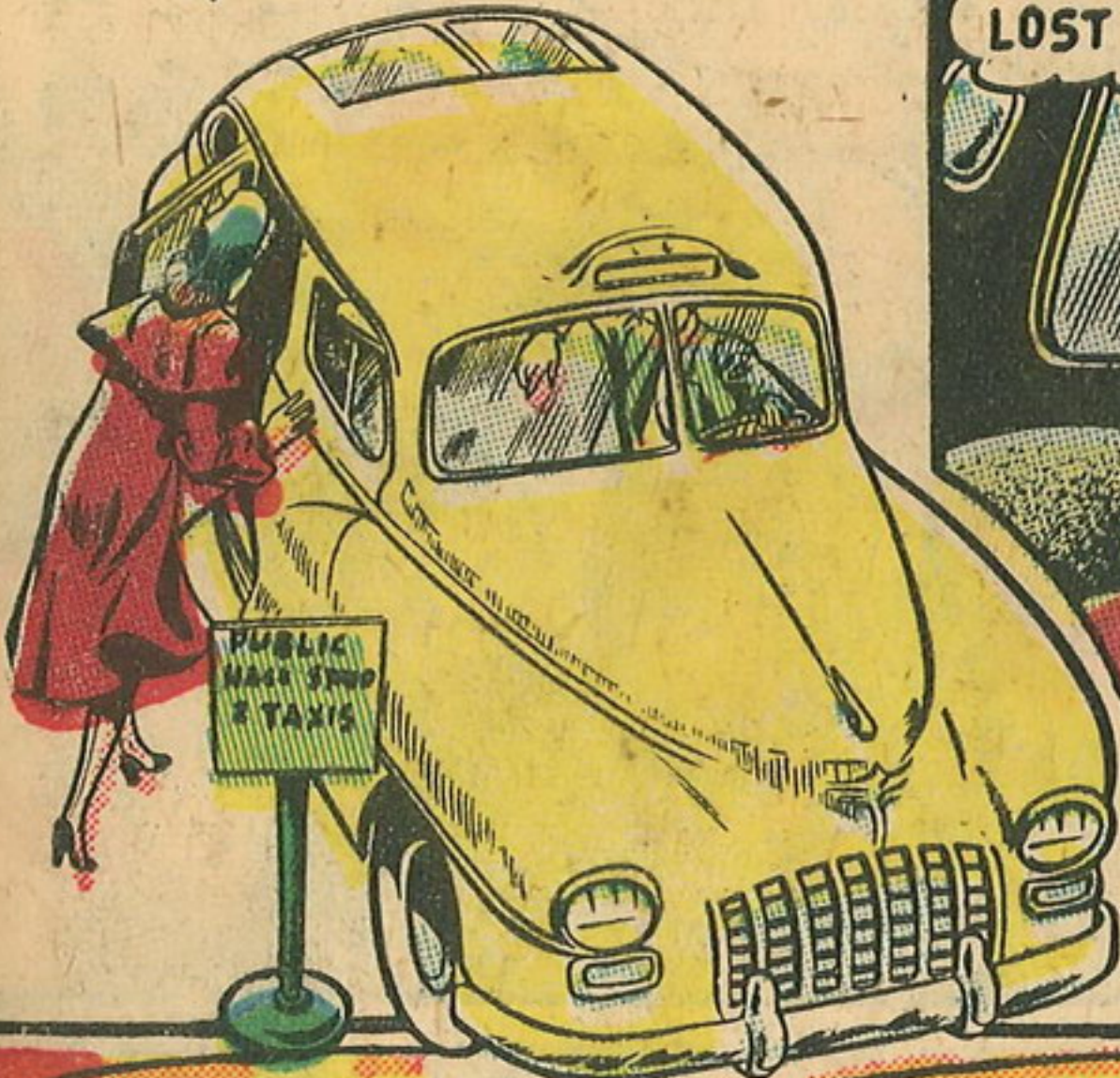
YOU'LL NOT INTERFERE WITH MY DUTY OR I'LL HAVE TO TAKE STEPS AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW AND THE COMMISSIONER'S ORDERS!

BROADWAY ROMANCES

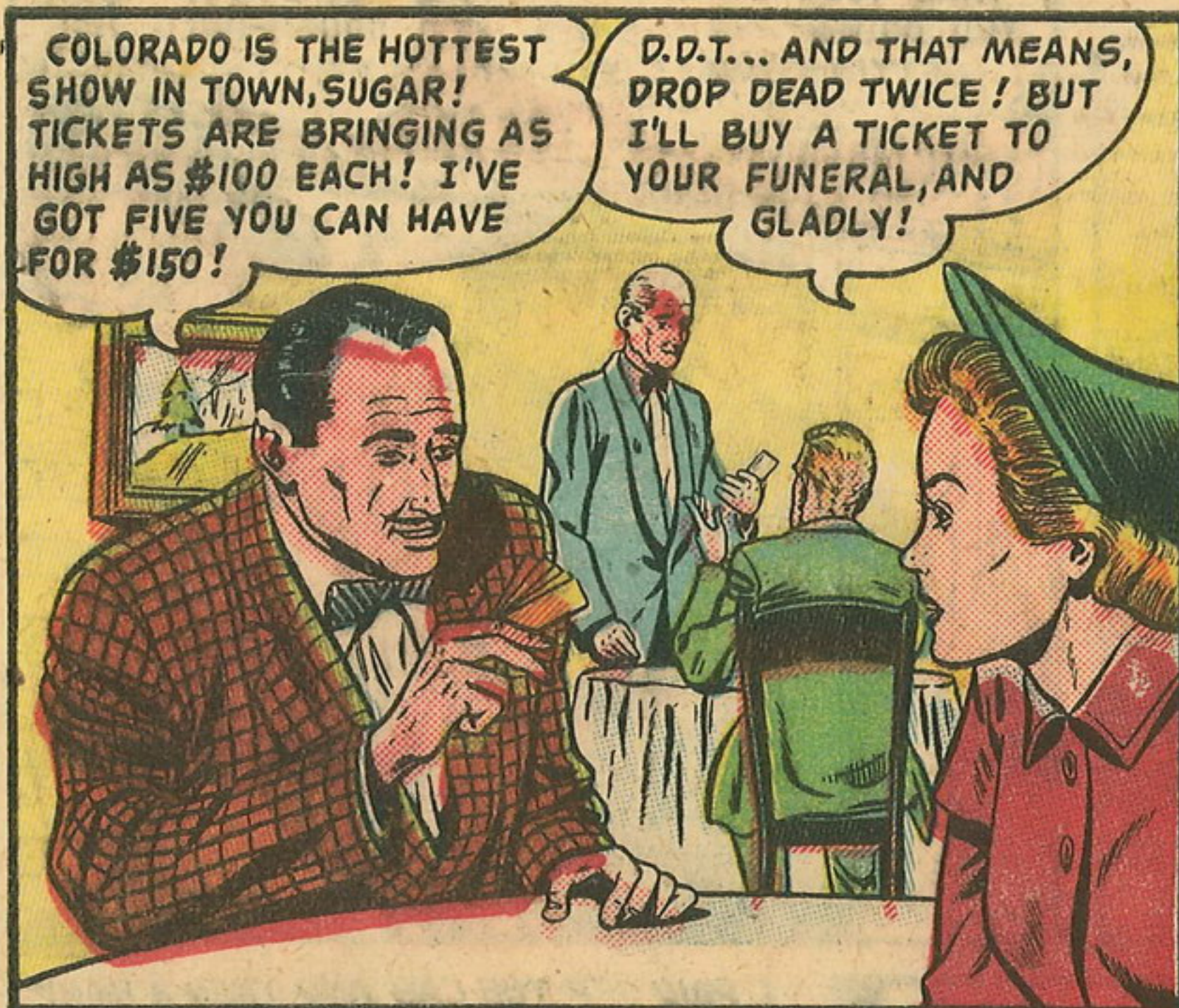
IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND, IT'S BEING TOLD WHAT I MUST OR MUST NOT DO!



ON YOUR WAY, MAN! I'M LATE FOR AN IMPORTANT DATE!

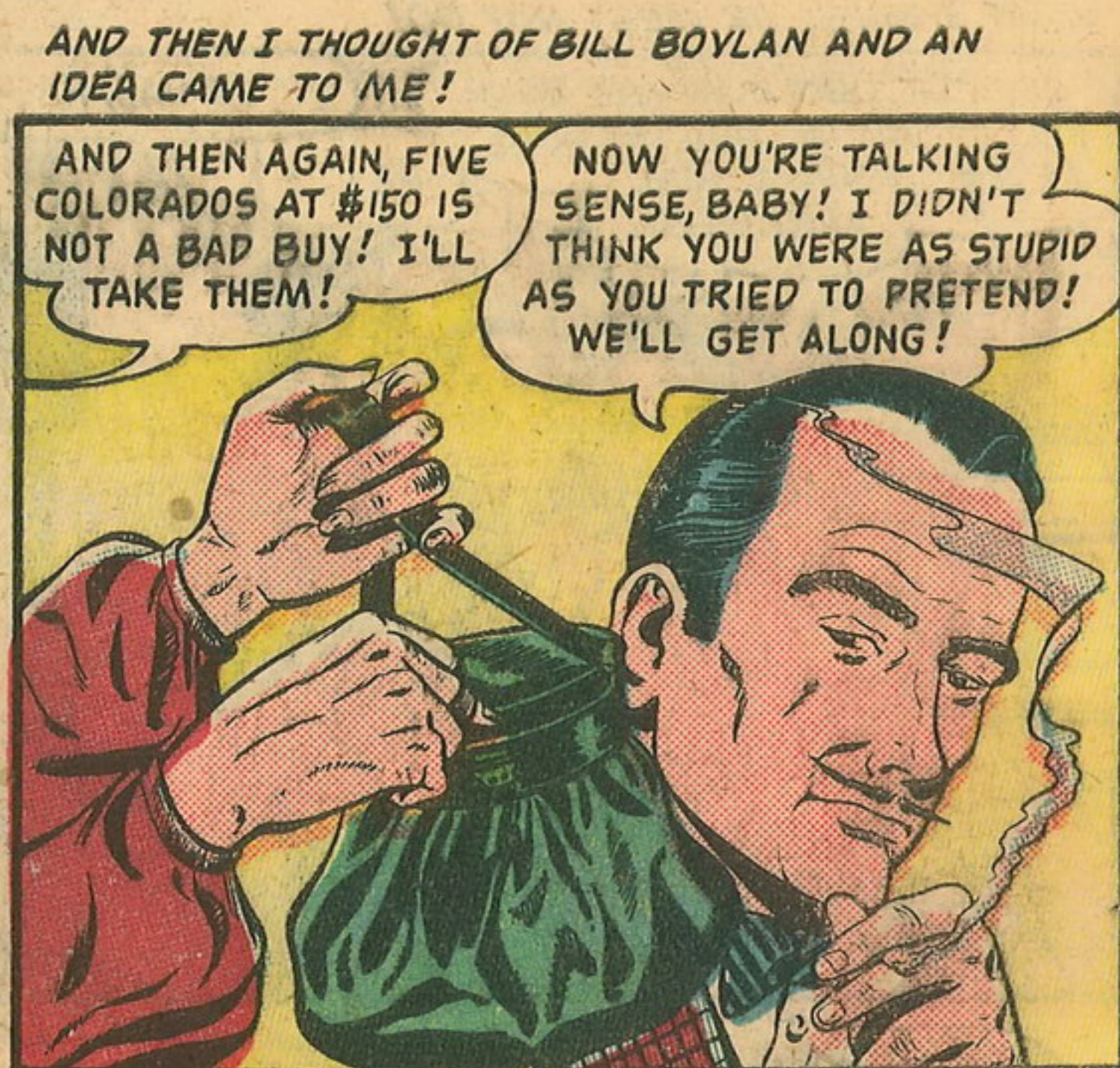


BROADWAY ROMANCES



COLORADO IS THE HOTTEST SHOW IN TOWN, SUGAR! TICKETS ARE BRINGING AS HIGH AS \$100 EACH! I'VE GOT FIVE YOU CAN HAVE FOR \$150!

D.D.T... AND THAT MEANS, DROP DEAD TWICE! BUT I'LL BUY A TICKET TO YOUR FUNERAL, AND GLADLY!



AND THEN I THOUGHT OF BILL BOYLAN AND AN IDEA CAME TO ME!

AND THEN AGAIN, FIVE COLORADOS AT \$150 IS NOT A BAD BUY! I'LL TAKE THEM!

NOW YOU'RE TALKING SENSE, BABY! I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE AS STUPID AS YOU TRIED TO PRETEND! WE'LL GET ALONG!

WE MADE THE TRADE... AND THEN A BIG SHADOW SLID ACROSS THE TABLE!

NEVER HAD I SEEN BILL BOYLAN SO RED-FACED AND FULL OF RAGE!



I'LL TAKE THAT MONEY AND THOSE TICKETS FOR EVIDENCE! AND IT'S PLEASD I AM TO BE SHUT OF THIS UNPLEASANT CASE!

WHA...? TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, COPPER!



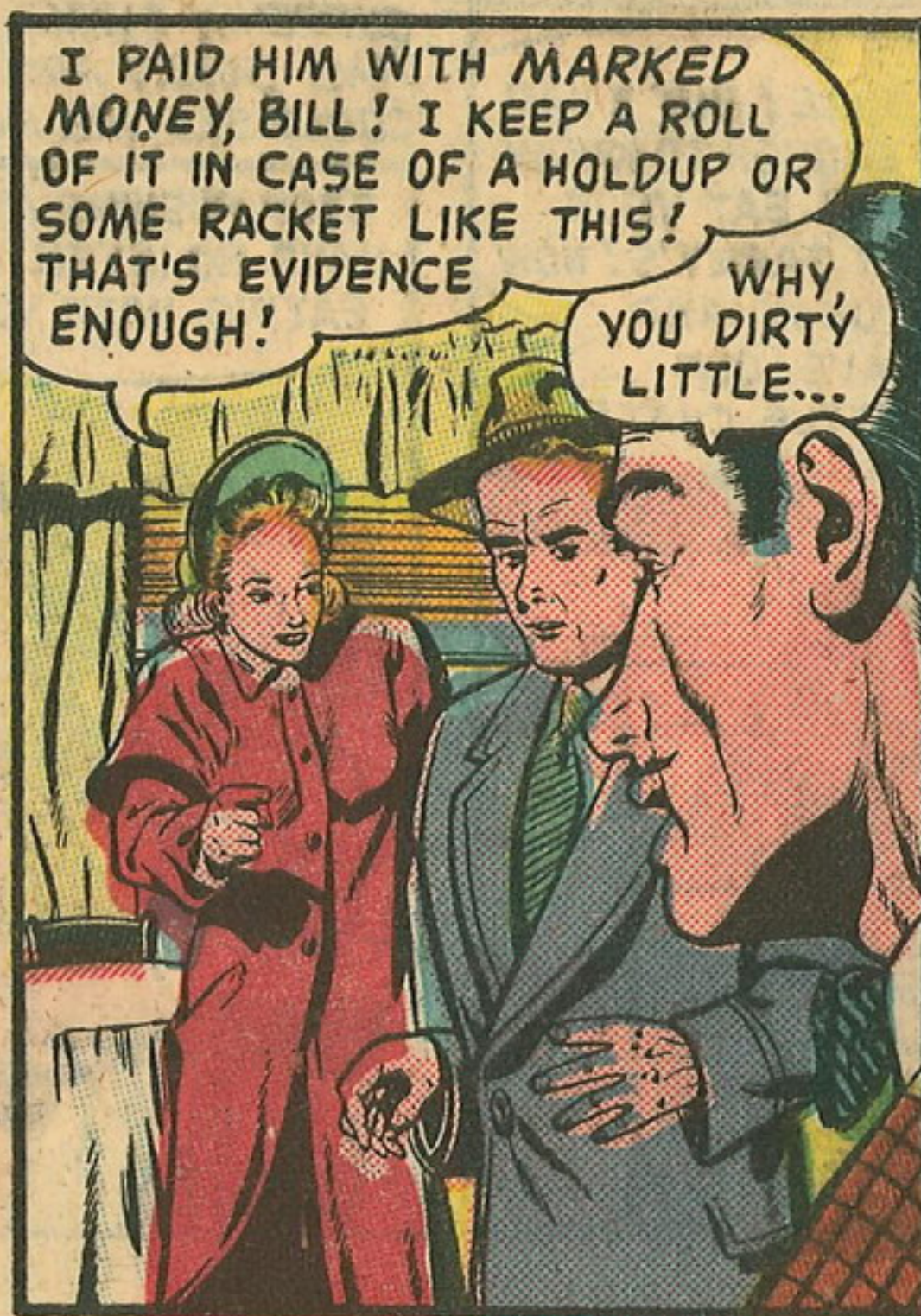
YOU GOT NOTHING ON ME! THOSE ARE HER TICKETS! SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO SELL 'EM TO ME AT A GOUGER'S PRICE! THIS IS MY MONEY!

YEAH? TELL THAT TO THE JUDGE!



I WILL... AND MY LAWYER'LL MAKE A MONKEY OUT OF YOU IN COURT! IT'S YOUR WORD AGAINST MINE! YOU CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING!

OH, YES YOU CAN, BILL! YOU'VE GOT HIM RIGHT WHERE YOU WANT HIM!



I PAID HIM WITH MARKED MONEY, BILL! I KEEP A ROLL OF IT IN CASE OF A HOLDUP OR SOME RACKET LIKE THIS! THAT'S EVIDENCE ENOUGH!

WHY, YOU DIRTY LITTLE...



SHUT UP! THAT'S FOR YOUR FILTHY TONGUE AS WELL AS FOR ANOTHER MATTER I'LL NOT MENTION!

BROADWAY ROMANCES

AFTER STEVE CORONA WAS BOOKED, BILL TOOK ME BACK UPTOWN...

I MUST BE AS DUMB AS YOU SAY I AM, MARCIA, FOR I'M THAT CONFUSED I DON'T KNOW BLACK FROM WHITE! ARE YOU FOR ME OR AGAINST ME?

OH, BILL, YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN... BUT PERHAPS THAT'S JUST AS WELL! NOTHING'S WORSE THAN A SMART HUSBAND!

DID... DID YOU SAY HUSBAND? BUT YOU WERE FIGHTING MAD AT ME NO LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO!

AND WHO WOULDN'T BE, WITH HER MAN THINKING THE AWFUL THINGS ABOUT HER THAT YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT ME? I'M STILL MAD!

WITH MY OWN EYES I SAW HIM KISS YOU AND WALK OUT LAUGHING! AND MY FACE STILL STINGS FROM WHAT I GOT FOR TRYING THE SAME!

AND IT OUGHT TO, STUPID! I DIDN'T EXPECT A KISS FROM THAT WORM, AND I WAS THAT STUNNED I COULDN'T MOVE A FINGER IN TIME!

BY THE TIME YOU GOT THERE, I WAS JUST GETTING A GOOD MAD UP! AND YOU DIDN'T TAKE ME BY SURPRISE LIKE HE DID!

YOU MEAN YOU KNEW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO?

ACE CAB CO

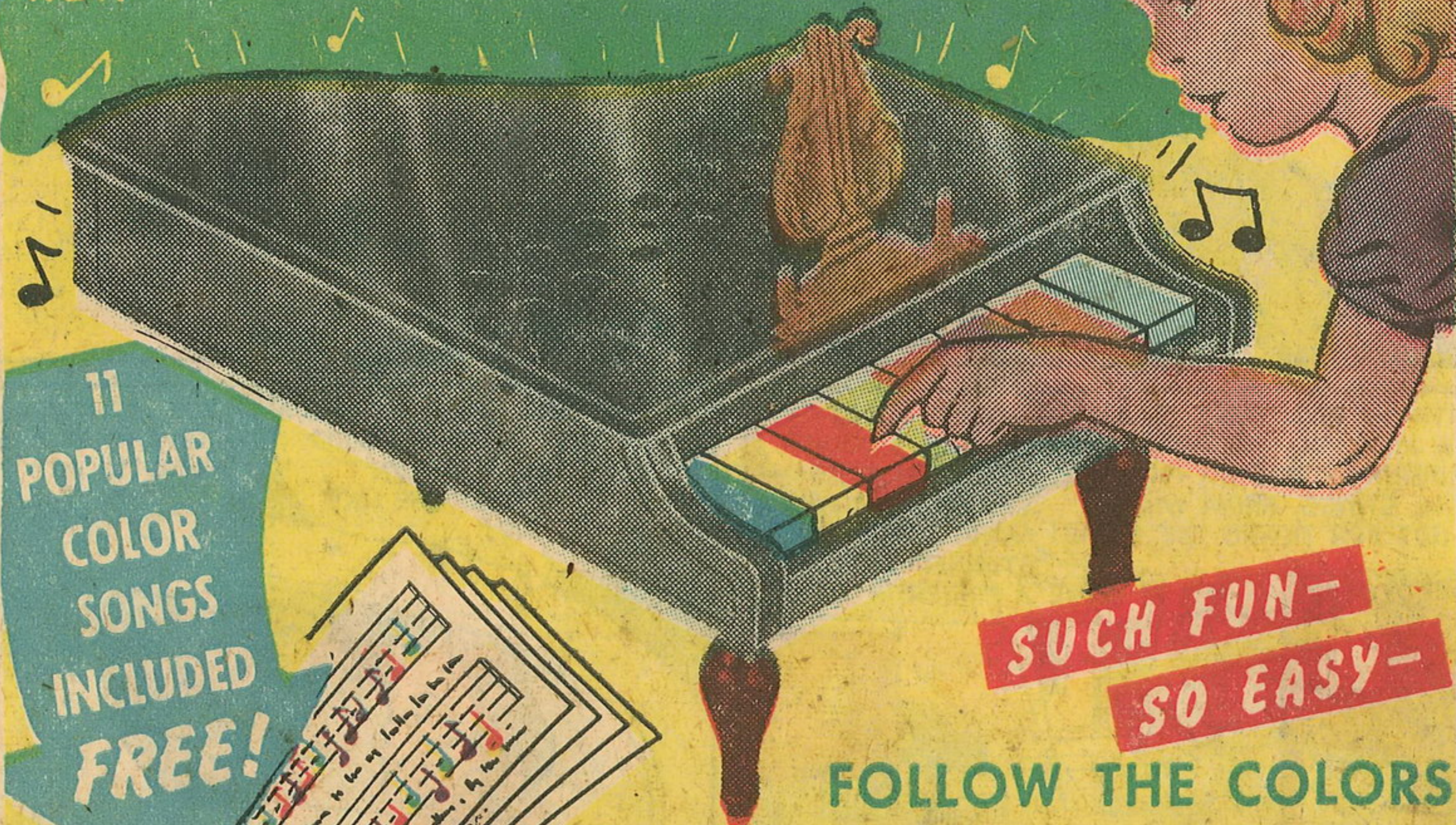
YOU BIG CLOWN, HAVEN'T I BEEN EXPECTING YOU TO KISS ME FOR MONTHS AND PLANNING TO SLAP YOU FOR IT SO YOU'LL NOT THINK IT'S TOO EASY?

MARCIA! MARCIA, DARLIN'...!

AND THAT'S FOR KEEPING A LADY WAITING WHILE YOU GET UP YOUR BIG, DUMB NERVE!

ACE CAB CO

Now You Can Play REAL SONGS at once with NEW COLOR-KEYED PIANO



11
POPULAR
COLOR
SONGS
INCLUDED
FREE!

**SUCH FUN—
SO EASY—**

FOLLOW THE COLORS AND YOU PLAY THE TUNES

Boys and girls, here's a super duper thrill! You make "real music", play favorite tunes right away on COLOR-KEYED PIANO! You don't have to know any notes or keys. Color of note in book shows color of key to play. Piano itself has clear true tone, is gaily decorated, sturdily made, real concert grand design. Only

\$2.98 — and sent free is book of COLOR SONGS with words and music of 11 jolly songs. Each note is BIG, colored just like matching piano key. Simple for anyone—you can't help but play!

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Get new COLOR-KEYED PIANO. Surprise your pals with your new musical skill, sing these songs together. Such a treat—tell Mom and Dad about it now!

Giant Song Book

36 additional songs. Just like your Free Color Keyed Song Book but with 36 pages of songs. Only \$1.00 extra.

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**10 DAYS
FREE TRIAL!**

Just Mail coupon and pay postman only \$2.98 plus postage. Save postage enclose \$2.98 with coupon. Then play the tunes, enjoy the piano! If you aren't truly thrilled, just return piano and book in 10 days to get money back.

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284 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y.

- ☐ Send me your new COLOR-KEYED PIANO and book of COLOR SONGS
- ☐ Send extra Giant 36 page Color Key Song Book for \$1.00
- ☐ I will pay postman \$ _____ plus postage on delivery
- ☐ I enclose \$ _____. You pay postage

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zone, State _____

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE: If not delighted I can return piano and book in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

SMALL BUST WOMEN

Special Design "Up-And-Out" Bra
Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline
Instantly

COLORS:

- NUDE
- WHITE
- BLACK
- BLUE

SIZES:

28
to
38

NO PADS! NO ARTIFICIAL BUST BUILDUP NEEDED

Self conscious about your flat looking bust-line? Figure Beauty starts with a glamorous bustline. The sensational "Up-And-Out" Bra has an exclusive secret patent pend. feature that tends to lift and cup flat, unshapely, small busts into a **FULLER, WELL-ROUNDED, EXCITING BUSTLINE** like magic instantly.

One of Our Many Satisfied Customers Below Says:

"... It's amazing how its special feature gives my bustline real glamour."

—Miss Doris Harris, Wichita, Kansas



BEFORE Miss Harris wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, she was flat, unshapely, and shy.



AFTER she wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, her attractive bustline gave her poise, confidence.

Now Wear All Dresses, Blouses, Sweaters, etc. (No matter how form fitting) With Bustline Confidence!

With the "Up-And-Out" Bra underneath, all your clothes will display the sweater girl, feminine curves you desire and require to look attractive. Firm elastic back and easy to adjust shoulder straps. Beautiful fabric — easy to wash. Colors: Nude, White, Black. Sizes: 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Only \$2.49. Mail Coupon Now.

SEND NO MONEY!

FREE 10 DAY TRIAL COUPON

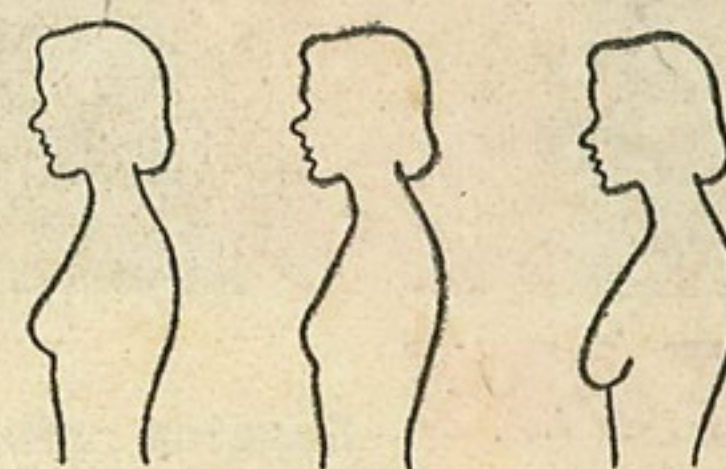
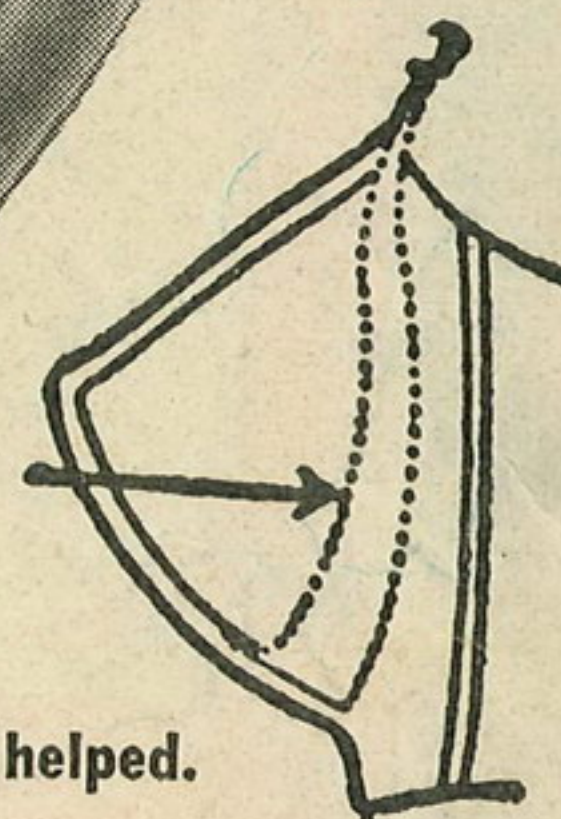
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Profile View Of Hidden Feature in Bra

which does wonders for your individual bust problem.

Below are some types who can be helped.

Special patent pending bust molding feature on inside of bra lifts, supports and cups your busts. No Matter Whether They Are Small, Flat or Sagging, into Fuller, Well-Rounded "Up and Out" curves like magic, instantly!



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Rush to me my "Up-And-Out" Bra in plain wrapper in size and color checked below. I will pay postman on delivery \$2.49 plus postage. If not delighted in 10 days, I will return merchandise for my money back.

Size _____ Color _____ How Many _____

Name _____

Address _____

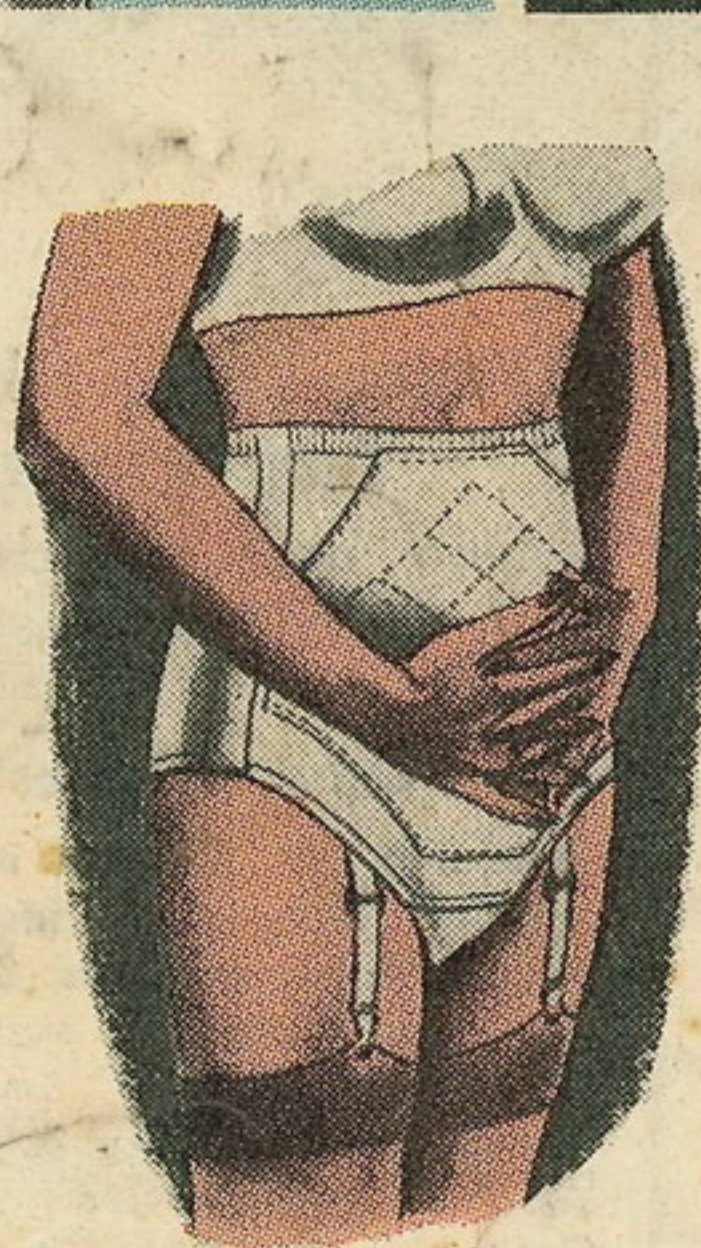
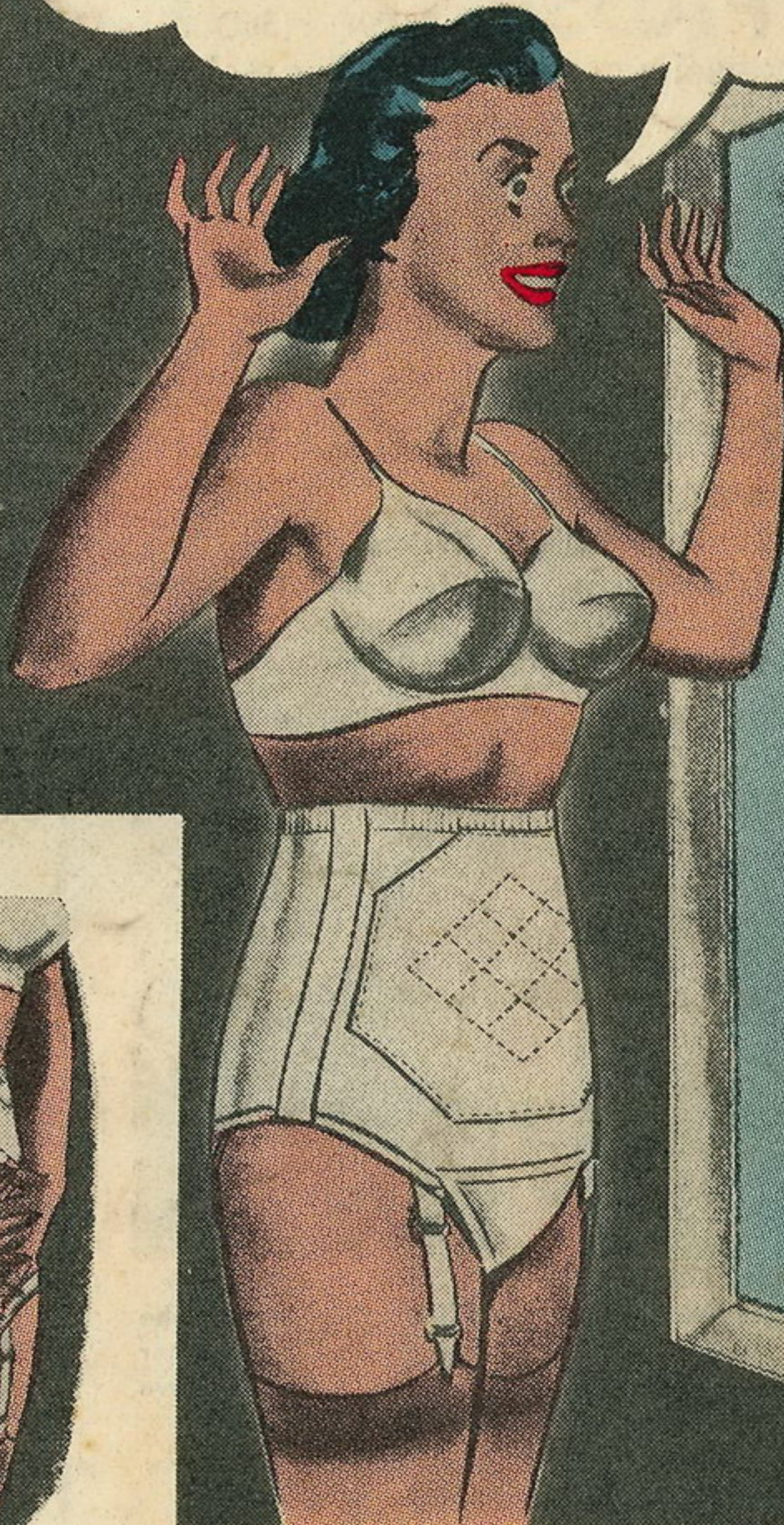
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Check here if you wish to save postage by enclosing \$2.49 with coupon. Same Money Back Guarantee.

**YIPES! COULD I USE
A BELLY-FLATTENER!**



**BOY! THIS SURE
TAKES ME IN!**



**INTERLOCKING HANDS
OF FIRM SUPPORT***

Test how you'll feel wearing the BELLY-FLATTENER this way: clasp hands across abdomen as shown and press up and in. Feel good? That's how you'll feel when you put on the BELLY-FLATTENER.

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Sagging muscles, bumps and bulges. Clothes looked awful. Nothing seemed to fit right. Couldn't wear any of the new styles.

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Convince yourself! See the difference with your own eyes. Try BELLY-FLATTENER at our expense. If you're not delighted with the immediate results, return in 10 days for immediate refund. BELLY-FLATTENER sent by Return Mail. Don't wait another minute. Mail coupon TODAY! NOW!

*T.M. Reg. U.S. Patent Office

AFTER

Protruding stomach pushed back in. Front level. Waist line evened out, tucked away. Pot belly picked up. Clothes fit swell. Also ideal under slacks, play shorts and swim trunks. Complete with detachable garters, changeable crotch piece.

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(Extra Large Size, 37 and up, \$3.98)
(Extra Crotches 50¢ each)

Waist Measure.....

Name

Address

City Zone State

☐ I enclose \$2.98 (or \$3.98 for size 37 and up). You pay postage.

**NOW
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Only
\$2.98**